

Commuter Nightmare

J. CHRISTOFFERSEN
Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut (AP) — Tens of thousands of commuters are bracing for a difficult trip around southwest Connecticut and to New York City beginning Monday as workers repair the Metro-North commuter rail line crippled



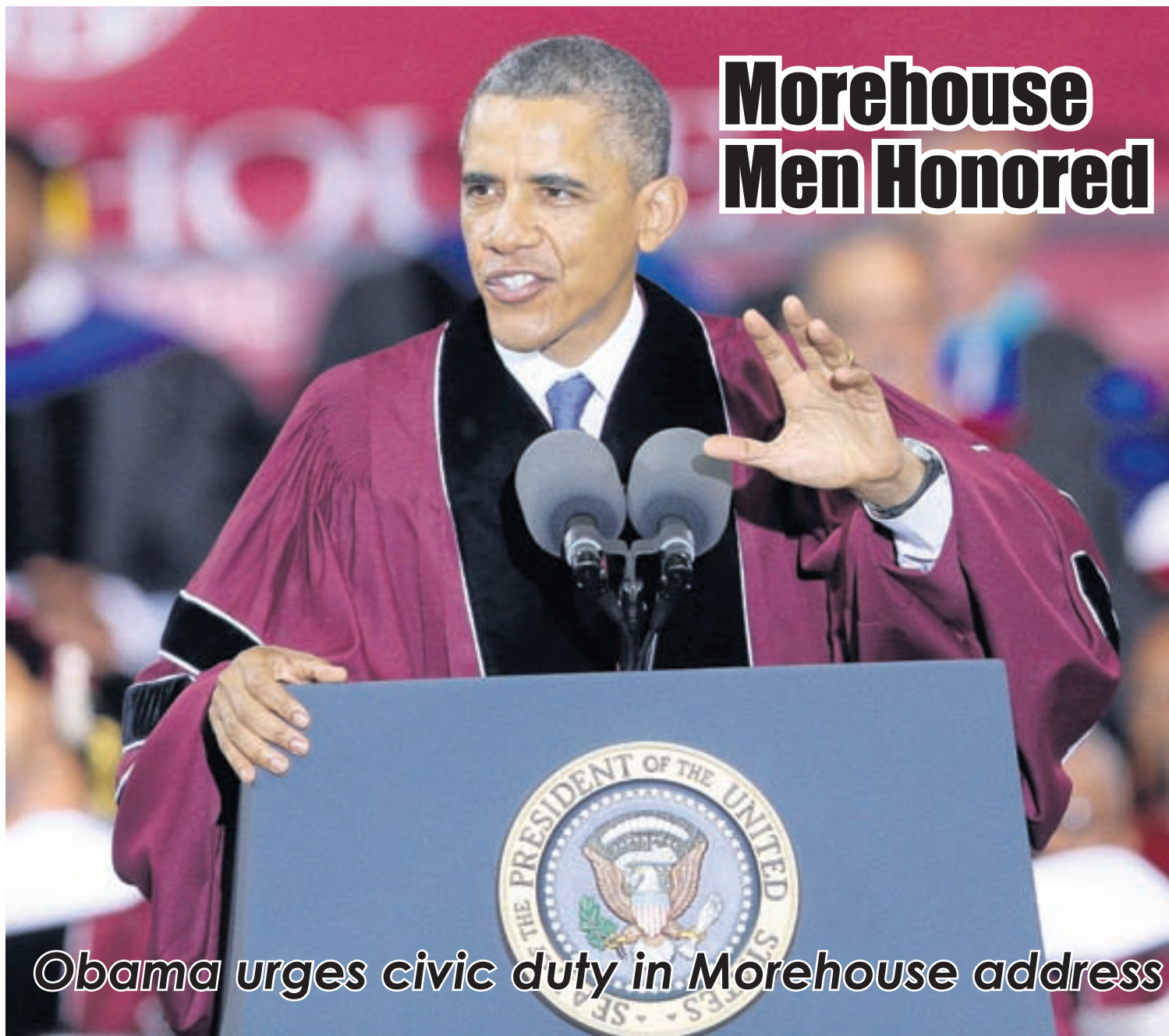
Gov. Dannel Malloy and Congressman Jim Himes, right, speak near the scene of the Metro-North train collision in Bridgeport, Conn.

(AP Photo/Cathy Zuraw)

by a derailment that injured scores of passengers. Crews will spend days rebuilding 2,000 feet (600 meters) of track, overhead wires and signals following the collision between two trains Friday evening that injured 72 people, Metro-North President Howard Permut said Sunday. Nine remained hospitalized. "This amounts to the wholesale reconstruction of a two-track electrified railroad," he said. Several days of around-the-clock work will be required, including inspections and testing of the newly rebuilt system, Permut said.

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Morehouse Men Honored



Obama urges civic duty in Morehouse address

President Barack Obama gestures as he delivers the Morehouse College 129th Commencement ceremony address Sunday, May 19, 2013, in Atlanta.

(AP Photo/John Bazemore)

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — President Barack Obama, in a soaring commencement address on work, sacrifice and opportunity, on Sunday told graduates of historically black Morehouse College to seize the power of their example as black men graduating from college and use it to improve people's lives. The president said his suc-

cess was due to "the special obligation I felt, as a black man like you, to help those who need it most, people who didn't have the opportunities that I had — because there but for the grace of God, go I. I might have been in their shoes. I might have been in prison. I might have been unemployed. I might not have been able to support a family. And that motivates me."

Noting the Atlanta school's mission to cultivate, not just educate, good men, Obama said graduates should not be so eager to join the chase for wealth and material things, but instead should remember where they came from and not "take your degree and get a fancy job and nice house and nice car and never look back." "So yes, go get that law degree. But if you do, ask

yourself if the only option is to defend the rich and powerful, or if you can also find time to defend the powerless," Obama said. "Sure, go get your MBA, or start that business, we need black businesses out there. But ask yourself what broader purpose your business might serve, in putting people to work, or transforming a neighborhood."

Continued on Page 3

North Korea fires new projectile into eastern waters

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea fired a projectile into waters off its eastern coast Sunday, a day after launching three short-range missiles in the same area, officials said.

North Korea routinely test-launches short-range missiles. But the latest launches came during a period of tentative diplomacy aimed at easing recent tension, including near-daily threats by North Korea to attack South Korea and the U.S. earlier this year. North Korea protested annual joint military drills by Seoul and Washington and U.N. sanctions imposed over its February nuclear test. The fourth launch occurred Sunday afternoon, according to officials at Seoul's Defense Ministry and Joint Chiefs of Staff. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity citing department rules, refused to say whether it was



A South Korean man watches a TV news reporting missile launch conducted by North Korea, at a Seoul Train Station in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, May 18, 2013. The letters at a screen read "Fired three short-range guided missiles."

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

a missile or artillery round.

On Saturday, North Korea fired two short-range missiles in the morning and another in the afternoon.

The U.S. responded by saying threats or provocations would only further deepen North Korea's international isolation, while South Ko-

rea called the launches a provocation and urged the North to take responsible actions.

The North has a variety

of missiles but Seoul and Washington don't believe the country has mastered the technology needed to manufacture nuclear warheads that are small and light enough to be placed on a missile capable of reaching the U.S. U.S. officials said the North has recently withdrawn two mid-range "Musudan" missiles believed to be capable of reaching Guam after moving them to its east coast during the recent tensions. The Korean Peninsula officially remains in a state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. South Korea's Defense Ministry said Sunday it has deployed dozens of Israeli-made precision guided missiles on front-line islands near the disputed western sea boundary as part of an arms buildup begun after a North Korean artillery strike on one of the islands in 2010 killed four South Koreans. □

Pakistan:

Assassination shakes new round of voting

SALMAN MASOOD

© 2013 New York Times

ISLAMABAD - Voters in an upscale district of Karachi turned out in low numbers Sunday for a repeat of the parliamentary election there, a day after a prominent official in Imran Khan's political party was gunned down in the area, officials said.

The district was a focus for accusations of election fraud during national voting May 11, and voting there was suspended early that day after reports of violent intimidation. In particular, Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, which has made inroads among affluent Karachi voters, blamed the dominant party in the city, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, of trying to head off his supporters from the polls.

Then, late Saturday, a co-founder of Khan's party, Zahra Shahid Hussain, 60, was shot dead outside

her home in the same district. Police officials described the shooting as an attempted robbery gone awry. But Khan and other party leaders immediately blamed the MQM party as having been involved - an accusation that MQM officials denied.

In a statement, Khan directly held Altaf Hussain, the leader of MQM who lives in London and is sought for questioning or arrest in Pakistan on several charges, responsible for the killing. Khan said Hussain "had openly threatened PTI workers and leaders through public broadcasts."

"I also hold the British Government responsible, as I had warned them to act against Altaf Hussain after his open threats to kill PTI workers. Unfortunately, the British Government did nothing to stop his calls to violence and killings," Khan said in his statement.

It was another example of how violence and politics remain closely intertwined in Karachi, a sprawling port metropolis that has long been riven by political turf wars that leave staggering body counts.

The killing Saturday had an

immediate effect on the voter turnout, despite the presence of Army troops within polling places, officials said. Around 86,316 voters were registered for voting in the district, known here as NA-250, and turnout is usually quite high

there. But as polling came to a close at 5 p.m., elections officials said that perhaps 10 percent of registered voters had cast a ballot - a stark contrast with the record 60 percent nationwide average turnout on election day. □



Mourners pray during the burial Zahra Shahid Hussain, a co-founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, who was shot to death outside her home in the Karachi district, known as NA-250, in Pakistan, May 19, 2013.

(Diego Ibarra Sanchez/The New York Times)

Obama urges civic duty in Morehouse address

Continued from front

"The most successful CEOs I know didn't start out intent on making money, rather, they had a vision of how their product or ser-

too."

Before Obama arrived in Atlanta, thunderstorms drenched hundreds of people who gathered on the campus lawn for the outdoor ceremony, forcing

Obama began to speak. Obama used the speech to once again share his personal story of growing up without a father, confessing that along the way he made unspeci-

"I had a tendency to make excuses for me not doing the right thing. But one of the things that all of you have learned over the last four years is, there's no longer any room for excuses." Speaking in personal terms as he often does when addressing predominantly black audiences, particularly of black males, the nation's first black president also spoke intimately of his desire to be a better father to daughters Malia and Sasha than his absent father was to him, and to be a better husband to his wife, Michelle.

He told the graduates to pay attention to their families, saying success in every other aspect of life means nothing without success at home. "I was raised by a heroic single mother and wonderful grandparents who made incredible sacrifices for me. And I know there are moms and grandparents here today who did the same thing for all of you," he said. "But I still wish I had a father who was not only present, but involved. And so my whole life, I've tried to be for Michelle and my girls what my father wasn't for my mother and me. I've tried to be a better husband, a

better father, and a better man."

"I know that when I'm on my deathbed someday, I won't be thinking about any particular legislation I passed, or policy I promoted."

I won't be thinking about the speech I gave, or the Nobel Prize I received," said Obama, 51. "I'll be thinking about a walk I took with my daughters, a lazy afternoon with my wife, whether I did right by all of them."

The speech was Obama's second commencement address of the season, following remarks last Sunday at Ohio State University in Columbus.

His third and final graduation address will come Friday at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. About 500 students received undergraduate degrees on Sunday and became "Morehouse Men." After the speech, Obama joined about 100 people at the office of the foundation of Arthur M. Blank, co-founder of Home Depot and owner of the Atlanta Falcons football team. Donors paid anywhere from \$10,000 to \$32,400 per couple to attend the fundraiser. □



Graduate Leland Shelton is congratulated as he is acknowledged by President Barack Obama during his 129th commencement ceremony address at Morehouse College Sunday, May 19, 2013, in Atlanta. After a difficult childhood Shelton graduating Phi Beta Kappa and is on his way to Harvard Law School.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

vice would change things, and the money followed," he said. For those headed to medical school, Obama said "make sure you heal folks in underserved communities who really need it,

many guests to wear clear plastic ponchos over what amounted to their Sunday-best clothes. Rain began falling again, accompanied by more thunder and lightning, minutes after

fied bad personal choices "like too many men in our community." "Sometimes I wrote off my own failings as just another example of the world trying to keep a black man down," he said.

Train outage expected for days in US Northeast

Continued from front

The damaged rail cars were removed from the tracks on Sunday, the first step toward the repairs.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy warned Sunday that traffic in southwest Connecticut could be a mess for as much as a week until service is restored to the commuter rail line.

Malloy even urged commuters to stay out of the state if possible.

"Tomorrow's commute will be extremely challenging," he said at a brief news conference in Hartford. "Residents should plan for a week's worth of disruptions."

Each day, approximately 30,000 Metro-North customers use the 12 stations

on the New Haven line between South Norwalk and New Haven where service has been shut down, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which operates Metro-North.

If all the affected commuters took to the highways to get to work, "we would literally have a parking lot," the governor said. The state will dispatch more state troopers and tow trucks to respond to car accidents that could come with crowded roads and slippery conditions due to a rainy weather forecast, he said.

Amtrak passenger train service between New York and New Haven also was suspended, and there was no estimate on service res-

toration. Limited service was available between New Haven and Boston.

About 700 people were on board the trains Friday evening when one heading east from New York City's Grand Central Terminal to New Haven derailed just

outside Bridgeport. It was hit by a train heading west from New Haven.

Investigators are looking at a broken section of rail to see if it is connected to the derailment and collision. National Transportation Safety Board investigators

arrived Saturday and are expected to be on site for seven to 10 days. They will look at the brakes and performance of the trains, the condition of the tracks, crew performance and train signal information, among other things.

The MTA operates the Metro-North Railroad, the second-largest commuter railroad in the U.S. The Metro-North main lines run northward from New York City's Grand Central Terminal into suburban New York and Connecticut.

Commuter trains damaged in a crash in Connecticut were being removed Sunday in the first step to making repairs and restoring service, the agency that runs Metro-North said. □



Emergency personnel at the scene where two Metro North commuter trains collided near Fairfield, Conn.

(AP Photo/The Connecticut Post, Christian Abraham)



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Small Florida city produces winning Powerball ticket

BARBARA RODRIGUEZ

TAMARA LUSH

Associated Press

ZEPHYRHILLS, Florida (AP) —

Some lucky person walked into a Publix supermarket in suburban Florida over the past few days and bought a ticket now worth an estimated \$590.5 million — the highest Powerball jackpot in history.

It's an amount too high for many to imagine. Compare it to the budget for the city of Zephyrhills: This year's figure is just more than \$49 million. The winning Powerball jackpot is 12 times that.

Whoever has the ticket hadn't come forward as of Sunday morning.

"This would be the sixth Florida Powerball winner and right now, it's the sole winner of the largest ever Powerball jackpot,"

Florida Lottery executive Cindy O'Connell told The Associated Press. "We're delighted right now that we have the sole winner." Publix spokeswoman Maria Brous said that there are a lot of rumors about who won, but the store doesn't know.

"We're excited for the winner or winners," said Brous. "We don't promote or endorse the lottery, we offer it

as a convenience."

Florida Lottery spokesman David Bishop said Sunday afternoon that it was doubtful the winner would come forward that day. The ticket-holder can't claim the prize until Monday when the agency opens, he said.

"It never happens this quickly," Bishop said. "If they know they won, they're going to contact their attorney or an accountant first so they can get their affairs in order."

O'Connell said Florida has had more Powerball winners than any other state but did not give any indication whether anyone had stepped forward with the winning ticket in Saturday's drawing.

But plenty of people in Zephyrhills — population 13,337 — are wondering whether it's someone they know.

Joan Albertson drove over to the Publix early Sunday morning with her camera in hand, just in case the winner emerged. She said she had bought a ticket at a store across the street, and the idea of winning that much money was still something of a shock.

"Oh, there's so much good that you could do with that

amount of money," Albertson said. "I don't even know where to begin."

Zephyrhills is a small city in Pasco County, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north-east of downtown Tampa. Once a rural farming town,

the news Sunday morning. "Well, it didn't click till I came here," she said, gesturing to the half-dozen TV live trucks humming in the Publix parking lot.

"And I'm like, wow I can't believe it, it's shocking! Out

Powerball of 11.

Estimates had earlier put the jackpot at around \$600 million. But Powerball's on-line site said Sunday that the jackpot had reached an estimated \$590.5 million.



The highest Powerball jackpot worth an estimated \$590.5 million was sold recently at this Publix supermarket located in Zephyrhills, Fla.

it's now known as a hotbed for skydiving activity, and the home to large retiree mobile home parks and Zephyrhills bottled water. And now, one lucky lottery ticket.

Sara Jeltis said her parents in Michigan texted her with

of the whole country, this Publix, in little Zephyrhills would be the winner." With four out of every five possible combinations of Powerball numbers in play, lottery executives said Saturday that someone was almost certain to win the game's highest jackpot, a windfall of hundreds of millions of dollars — and that's after taxes.

The winning numbers were 10, 13, 14, 22 and 52, with a

The world's largest jackpot was a \$656 million Mega Millions jackpot in March 2012.

Terry Rich, CEO of the Iowa Lottery, initially confirmed that one Florida winning ticket had been sold. He told AP that following the Florida winner, the Powerball grand prize was being reset at an estimated jackpot of \$40 million, or about \$25.1 million cash value. □

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2 FBI agents killed in US training accident

VIRGINIA BEACH, Virginia (AP) — Two FBI agents have been killed in a training accident in Virginia.

A spokeswoman for the FBI's Norfolk office, Vanessa Torres, said Sunday that the accident happened Friday afternoon off the Virginia Beach coast.

Torres says the accident is being investigated. She didn't have any further details and the agents weren't immediately identified.

WAVY-TV in Norfolk reported that the agents were with the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team based in Quantico. □

Lawyers confident OJ Simpson to be set free

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent
LAS VEGAS (AP) — The latest high-stakes court hearing for O.J. Simpson in the glitzy capital of big gam-

ball League Hall of Famer and former Hollywood star to take back personal items and mementos from two sports collectible dealers in a Vegas hotel room.



O.J. Simpson's lawyer Tom Pitaro holds up a copy of a defense budget submitted by Simpson's former lawyer for payment during an evidentiary hearing for Simpson in Clark County District Court in Las Vegas.

(AP Photo/Ethan Miller)

bles has come to a close with the former football star's defense team feeling confident that their client is closer to getting out of prison.

The last time Simpson was in a Las Vegas courtroom, he was convicted of kidnapping and armed robbery. Now, with a new team of attorneys on his side, he has mounted a cool, methodical case that his former lead lawyer botched the 2008 trial so badly that a new one should be granted.

"He has a very good chance now," said Ozzie Fumo, one of the attorneys who represented Simpson. "I don't think the state was able to counter any of our issues."

Simpson's lawyers presented evidence that showed Miami-based attorney Yale Galanter shared responsibility for the ill-conceived plan for the National Foot-

They also built a case that he deliberately sabotaged Simpson's chances for acquittal and appeal to protect himself and his own self-interests.

When the weeklong hearing ended Friday there seemed to be little doubt that major mistakes were made when Simpson was sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison on 12 criminal counts. The real question is whether enough was done to meet the high standard needed for District Court Judge Linda Marie Bell to free Simpson from state prison and grant him a new trial.

The final witness she heard from was Galanter, who defended his actions in a tense courtroom standoff with Simpson and his new representatives Friday.

As Simpson's legal team worked to portray Galanter as hungry for the money and fame that could

come from an O.J. trial, the lawyer said it was Simpson who agreed to spend more than a half a million dollars on his defense, turned down a plea bargain and decided not to testify.

"I felt a genuine fondness for O.J. and was devastated when he lost," Galanter said.

However, when Simpson testified Wednesday, he recounted his hotel room confrontation with memorabilia dealers, and his interactions with the lawyer he blamed for his conviction.

He said he trusted Galanter based on a long professional relationship. "He was my guy," Simpson said.

He said Galanter made no mention of a plea deal

and advised him not to testify in his own defense when other lawyers said it would help.

Galanter, when he was on the stand, said Simpson brought "too much baggage" to testify given his 1995 criminal trial acquittal in the murders of his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. Following the "trial of the century" Simpson was ordered to pay \$33.5 million when he was found liable for the killings in civil court.

Galanter also testified that Simpson confided to him that he had asked two men to bring guns to the hotel room in September 2007, and Simpson "knew he screwed up." □

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Hofstra student killed by police during break-in

FRANK ELTMAN
Associated Press

MINEOLA, New York (AP)

— In what police are describing as a crime of opportunity, a wanted man with a criminal history dating nearly 15 years entered a front door that had been left open at a New York home near Hofstra University. A short time later, the intruder, Dalton Smith, and a 21-year-old college junior, Andrea Rebello, were both dead. The two were killed early Friday by a Nassau County police officer who fired eight shots at the masked man, hitting him seven times but also accidentally hitting Rebello once in the head, Nassau County homicide squad Lt. John Azzata said Saturday. Smith was holding Rebello in a headlock and pointing a gun at her head before he turned his gun at the of-

ficer, Azzata said, prompting the shooting.

"He kept saying, 'I'm going to kill her,' and then he pointed the gun at the police officer," Azzata said.

A loaded 9 mm handgun with a serial number scratched off was found at the scene, police said.

Nassau County Police Commissioner Thomas Dale said he had traveled to Rebello's Tarrytown, New York, home to explain to Rebello's parents what happened.

"I felt obligated as a police commissioner and as a parent to inform them as soon as all the forensic results were completed," Dale said.

The veteran police officer, who was not identified, has about 12 years of experience on the Nassau County police force and previously spent several years

as a New York City police officer, Dale said.

The officer is currently out on sick leave. He will be

On Sunday, Hofstra University students honored Rebello by wearing white ribbons at their graduation



Officers guard the area leading to the white house, background, where a Hofstra University student and an armed intruder were killed during a break-in near the campus in Uniondale, N.Y.

(AP Photo/ Louis Lanzano)

the focus of an internal police investigation once the criminal investigation is completed, which is standard police procedure in any officer-involved shooting, the commissioner said.

ceremony.

The shooting, which took place just steps from campus, has cast a pall over the university community as it geared up for commencement.

On Saturday evening, flags on the Hempstead campus were at half-staff and students held a silent outdoor vigil in front of a photo of the young woman. Surrounded by candles and flowers, they sang "Ave Maria." Earlier Saturday, police announced that Smith, 30, had been wanted on a parole violation related to a first-degree robbery conviction. A warrant was issued for Smith on April 25 for absconding from parole, police said.

Smith had what police described as "an extensive criminal history," which included arrests for robbery in the first degree in 1999, promoting prison contraband in the second degree in 2000, robbery in the first degree in 2003, assault in the second degree in 2003 and robbery in the second degree in 2003. □

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Dimon under pressure ahead of vote

CHRISTINA REXRODE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jamie Dimon, chairman and CEO of the biggest U.S. bank, faces a key test this week: His shareholders are voting on whether to let him keep both jobs. It's been just more than a year since his bank, JPMorgan Chase, revealed a surprise trading loss that tarnished its usually stellar reputation in Washington and on Wall Street, and what a difference it has made. Shareholder groups are calling for the bank to strip him of his chairman job, a move that would be a bruising referendum against a man who's normally chieftain even among other big-bank CEOs. They're also lobbying to kick out multi-

ple long-time board members, saying they should have done more to detect or prevent the trading loss. In all, it's a powerful reminder of how fortunes can quickly shift in the banking industry, and how banks, supposedly chastened by the financial crisis, are still stumbling through regulatory and legal crises.

On Tuesday, at the bank's annual meeting in Tampa, Florida, public employees' union AFSCME, the New York City Comptroller's Office and other fund managers will ask bank shareholders to approve a proposal asking JPMorgan to split the roles of chairman and CEO, and to give the chairman job to someone who isn't a bank employee. The underlying idea is

to install stricter checks and balances against Dimon and other top bank executives. A similar measure got 40 percent approval at last year's meeting, which was held just days after the bank announced the so-called London whale loss. In the previous six annual meetings where Dimon has been both chairman and CEO, shareholders have been asked about separating the roles four times, and last year marked the highest level of votes in favor of the idea. In 2007 and 2008, only about 15 percent of shareholders voted for similar measures.

"Even a Master of the Universe can be swallowed by a London whale," said AFSCME president Lee Saunders. □

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Police: Killing in New York City looks like hate crime

VERENA DOBNIK
 Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The man who police say hurled homophobic slurs at a gay man on a Manhattan street before firing a single fatal shot to his head appeared in court Sunday to face a charge of murder as a hate crime.

Elliot Morales, who appeared in Manhattan Criminal Court, is also charged with criminal possession of a weapon and menacing, according to the complaint filed Sunday by the Manhattan district attorney's office.

Authorities said the Greenwich Village resident used a silver revolver to kill 32-year-old Mark Carson early Saturday as he walked with a companion in Morales' neighborhood in lower Manhattan.

Morales was ordered held without bail pending another court appearance on Thursday. His attorney, Reginald Sharpe, could not be reached for comment. On Saturday, seconds before opening fire in the lively Village streets just after midnight, police say Morales followed Carson and a companion through the Village, asking if they "want to die here," Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said.

Police said Morales then yelled anti-gay slurs before shooting Carson point-blank in the face in a

neighborhood long known as a bedrock of the gay rights movement.

Morales was soon arrested a few blocks away.

He has a previous arrest for attempted murder in 1998, police said. Details of that arrest weren't immediately clear. Saturday's shooting scene is a few blocks from the Stonewall Inn, the site of 1969 riots that helped give rise to the gay rights movement when patrons reacted to police harassment. Saturday's violence follows a spate of recent bias attacks on gay men in New York, but this was the first deadly one. Kelly said police were looking into possible links between the incidents. The shooting stunned a city where, in many neighborhoods, same-sex couples now walk freely holding hands. It also comes at a time when the gay marriage movement is gaining momentum in many parts of the United States. Twelve states have legalized same-sex marriage, including New York in 2011. □



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A makeshift memorial for Mark Carson, a gay man who was fatally shot Friday night, in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York, May 19, 2013. The suspect in the killing, identified as Elliot Morales, 33, was charged May 19 with murder, an act qualified as a hate crime, and with criminal possession of a weapon.
 (Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

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Assad's regime tightens grip on Lebanese border

KARIN LAUB

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian troops pushed into a rebel-held town near the Lebanese border on Sunday, fighting house-to-house and bombing from the air as President Bashar Assad tried to strengthen his grip on a strategic strip of land running from the capital to the Mediterranean coast. With the regime scoring gains on the battlefield, the U.S. and Russia could face an even tougher task persuading Assad and his opponents to attend talks on ending Syria's 26-month-old conflict. Washington and Moscow hope to start talks with an international conference as early as next month, though no date has been set. Government forces launched the offensive on the town of Qusair just hours after Assad said in a newspaper interview that he'll stay in his job until elections — effectively rejecting an opposition demand that any talks on a political transition lead to his ouster. Even though the regime

and the main opposition group have not yet committed to attending the conference, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said Sunday that he is hopeful it can take place "very

ty and because the regime and the armed opposition believed they could achieve more on the battlefield than in talks. Russia and the U.S. have backed opposite sides in Syria.



Syrian President Bashar Assad during a meeting in Tehran, Iran. Syrian President Bashar Assad says he won't step down before elections are held in his war-ravaged country.

(AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

soon," possibly in early June. In addition to the U.S. and Russia, he said he has spoken with Britain, France, China and other key parties. Previous diplomatic initiatives have failed, in part because of divisions within the international communi-

ty. Still, neither regime forces nor rebel fighters have been able to create significant momentum since the uprising against Assad erupted in March 2011 and last year escalated into a full-fledged civil war. The rebels control large rural areas in the north

and east of the country, while Assad has successfully defended his hold on the capital, Damascus, the coastal area and parts of Aleppo, Syria's largest city. Before Sunday's offensive, Qusair had been ringed by regime troops and fighters from the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, an Assad ally, for several weeks. Qusair lies along a land corridor between Damascus and the Mediterranean coast, the heartland of Assad's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam. Many rebel fighters are Sunni Muslims and Qusair, overwhelmingly Sunni, had served as a conduit for shipments of weapons and supplies smuggled from Lebanon to the rebels. Hadi Abdullah, a Qusair activist reached by Skype, said regime troops and Hezbollah fighters began shelling the town late Saturday, followed by airstrikes early Sunday that sent residents taking cover in basements. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist group, said warplanes resumed bombing raids later Sunday. By Sunday afternoon,

regime forces had advanced into the town, engaging in house-to-house battles with rebel fighters, Abdullah said. Syrian state media said Assad's troops took control of the main square, the area around the municipal building, a sports stadium and a local church. Syrian state TV said troops arrested rebel fighters who tried to flee Qusair dressed as civilians. A government official said the regime left an escape road open to civilians, a claim denied by Abdullah, who said thousands of non-combatants were trapped in Qusair. "We tried to get civilians out four times. They are not allowing us," he said of regime forces. The Observatory said 52 people were killed in Qusair, including 48 fighters, three women and a male civilian. Abdullah said the air raids destroyed at least 17 houses. A field hospital was damaged last week, leaving the town with only one medical center which was unable to handle the influx of some 400 wounded Sunday, he said. □

Video displays kidnapped Egyptian security officers

SARAH EL DEEB
TONY G. GABRIEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Seven men purported to be the members of Egypt's security forces kidnapped by suspected militants last week appeared in a video posted online Sunday and urged the government to secure their release by meeting their captors' demands. The video, posted on YouTube, is the first sign of the six policemen and one border guard since they were abducted by gunmen on the road from the Sinai Peninsula to Cairo on Thursday. Egyptian security officials said they believed the men in the clip were the missing personnel and that authorities were treating the matter seriously. The father of one of the

captives identified his son in the video. The kidnappings have embarrassed President Mohammed Morsi's government, and are seen as a test of his administration's ability to restore security to the volatile peninsula. They also have renewed a national debate on how best to tackle the troubles in northern Sinai, which borders Gaza and Israel. While many called for a swift security response, some argued that such a move would spark a backlash. Authorities have been in contact with the kidnappers through mediators. The kidnappers have demanded the release of several militants held in Egyptian jails, including some convicted during Mubarak's rule, officials say. □

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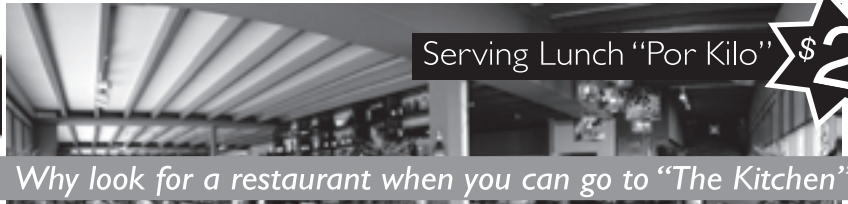
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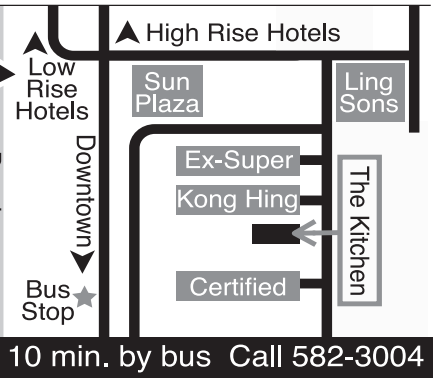


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French president Hollande signs gay marriage into law

ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France will see its first gay weddings within days, after French President Francois Hollande signed a law Saturday authorizing marriage and adoption by same-sex couples and ending months of nationwide protests and wrenching debate.

Hollande's office said he signed the bill Saturday morning, a day after the Constitutional Council struck down a challenge to the law and ruled it in line with France's constitution. Hollande, a Socialist, had made legalizing gay marriage one of his campaign pledges last year. While polls for years have shown majority support for gay marriage in France, adoption by same-sex couples is more controversial.

The parliamentary debate exposed a deep conservatism and attachment to traditional families in France's rural core that is often eclipsed by and at odds with libertine Paris.

But mostly, it tapped into deep discontent with the Socialist government, largely over Hollande's

handling of the economy. Months of anti-gay marriage protests became a flashpoint for frustrations with Hollande, and occasionally degenerated into violence.

In addition, gay rights groups reported a rise in attacks on homosexuals as the parliamentary debate was under way.

Protest organizers distanced themselves from the trouble-makers.

The opposition isn't ready to give up. It plans a protest May 26 that aims to parlay the success of the anti-gay marriage movement into a broader anti-Hollande one. Among those expected to attend is Jean-Francois Cope, the leader of the opposition UMP party, riven by divisions and struggling for direction since Nicolas Sarkozy lost the presidency last year.

Hollande warned that he wouldn't accept any disruption of France's first gay marriages.

One couple signed up Saturday to tie the knot on May 29 in the gay-friendly southern French city of Montpellier.

"We're very happy that

today we can finally talk of love after all the talk of legislation and political battles," one of the future newlyweds, Vincent Autin,

said on France-Info radio. According to French law, couples must register to marry in city hall and wait at least 10 days before

holding a ceremony so that anyone objecting to the union — such as an existing spouse — has time to intervene. □



Demonstrators gathered at the Invalides square in Paris, during a rally to protest against French President Francois Hollande's social reform on gay marriage. Hollande signed a law this weekend authorizing marriage and adoption by same-sex couples.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

US Embassy warns of armed robbery threat in Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)

— The U.S. Embassy in the Bahamas is warning about the threat of armed robbery in the capital of the island chain off Florida's east coast. A statement from the U.S. Embassy in Nassau advises Americans living in and traveling to the islands to be on heightened alert to avoid being a crime victim. It says "armed robbery remains a major threat" facing Americans in Nas-

sau.

The security message was issued Friday, about a week after an Illinois man was fatally shot on a Nassau street during a robbery. The Embassy says a number of other U.S. citizens have fallen victim to armed robbery so far this year and some have been seriously injured. Government officials did not immediately respond to Sunday calls seeking comment. □

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Maze prison's future stirs up ghosts of its past

DOUGLAS DALBY

© 2013 New York Times

MAZE, Northern Ireland — On a quiet country road south of Belfast, only the sudden appearance of a watchtower and portions of walls offer any hint of what was once Europe's most notorious prison. After the last inmates walked out the gates in 2000, the bulldozers moved in, leaving little of the top security fortress intact.

The buildings of the old Maze prison have proved far easier to erase than the vivid memories of the events that took place here, particularly the 1981 hunger strike in which Bobby Sands, an Irish Republican Army leader convicted of a firearms charge, and nine of his comrades died in pursuit of the right to be treated as political prisoners rather than criminals.

Now, 15 years after the Good Friday peace accord paved the way for the controversial early release of hundreds of paramilitary prisoners — pro-British unionists as well as republicans opposed to British control over Northern Ireland — the site of the old prison has once again become a vortex of political discord.

After more than a decade of indecision, the power-sharing local government recently agreed to build a center devoted to the study of peace and conflict resolution on part of the old prison site, along

with an industrial park for high-tech companies.

The government commissioned Daniel Libeskind, the architect best known for his work at the Ground Zero site in Manhattan and the Jewish Museum in Ber-

lin, to design the center to reflect the complexities of the conflict,

known as the Troubles, that claimed more than 3,000 lives over 30 years.

But instead of being embraced as a powerful sym-

bol of reconciliation, the proposed peace center has already become mired in the continuing dispute between unionists and republicans over how the story of the Troubles will be told. □



Former Compound 19 of the former Maze prison in Northern Ireland, which was used to house paramilitary prisoners from mid-1971 to mid-2000.

(Handout Photo)

Dissident ex-general Rivero released in Venezuela

JORGE RUEDA

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan authorities have released a dissident ex-general who was jailed on charges of inciting unrest after the country's disputed presidential election. Retired Gen. Antonio Rivero said he would "take

care of my health" as he was freed late Friday.

Opposition leaders said he was hospitalized Saturday with a respiratory infection and digestive problems following a 16-day hunger strike he undertook to protest his arrest.

Rivero remains accused of instigating violent protests

following the April 14 presidential election,

which the government says left at least nine people dead and dozens injured.

Opposition leaders say the charges are part of a crackdown on dissent after the narrow election win of Nicolas Maduro,

the late Hugo Chavez' hand-picked successor.

They refuse to accept the result, accusing Maduro's side of fraud and voter intimidation.

On his Twitter account, opposition leader Henrique Capriles called the release of Rivero "an act of justice! He should never have been

jailed! Enough with the use of the courts for political ends!"

Rivero gained fame for denouncing Cuban involvement in the Venezuelan military in 2010 and became a prominent member of the opposition, participating in post-vote protests this month. □

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Caribbean:

Regional leaders backing "Caribbean Challenge" initiative



From left, Richard Branson, British Virgin Islands Premier Dr. Orlando Smith, and Grenada Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell listen to Costa Rica's former President Jose Maria Figueres speak during a Caribbean Summit at the home of Richard Branson on Necker Island, in the British Virgin Islands.

(AP Photo/Todd VanSickle)

DAVID McFADDEN
JASON SMITH

Associated Press

NECKER ISLAND, British Virgin Islands (AP) —

Surrounded by a turquoise sea and a menagerie of exotic animals on a billionaire's private island, political and business leaders gathered over the weekend to back an initiative aimed at expanding protection for the Caribbean's imperiled coasts and waters.

The "Caribbean Challenge" calls for special protected zones along at least 20 percent of the region's coasts by 2020 in hopes of protecting its biodiversity and its crucial tourism market. The region's scattered islands have 10 percent of the world's coral reefs and some 1,400 species of fish and marine mammals.

Richard Branson, the adventuring CEO and founder of the Virgin Group of companies, is co-hosting the two-day meeting at Necker Island, his home in the British Virgin Islands where he has developed an ultra-exclusive eco-resort that showcases renew-

able energy technology, reintroduced flamingoes, imported lemurs and other creatures.

"It's just so important to get every single Caribbean country 100 percent behind protecting the wonderful sea life and the wonderful reefs and mangroves, and therefore the species that occupy our oceans," Branson said from his 74-acre Caribbean retreat, a haven for entertainment and business A-listers.

British Virgin Islands Premier Orlando Smith and Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell are also co-hosting the gathering of delegations from nine Caribbean countries, chiefs of resort companies and cruise lines, representatives of the World Bank, United Nations and other international bodies, private foundations and environmental groups. "This is not a situation where we can say: This is a Caribbean thing and it doesn't include anybody else. This is an international issue," Mitchell told reporters gathered for a brief press conference held on Neck-

er's tennis courts, not far from an animated group of lemurs.

On Friday, delegations from the participating governments signed a communique pledging to establish a framework for a regional approach to coastal conservation, including "increasing considerably the number of marine protected areas." They also said

they recognized an urgent need to protect sharks and rays, and vowed a "dramatic acceleration in the transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources over the next five years."

One of the key sponsors is the Virginia-based Nature Conservancy, which touts the Caribbean Challenge, begun in 2008, as one of the world's most ambitious

conservation initiatives. The conservation group has been providing technical expertise to the participating islands for years.

"The Caribbean is truly paradise under threat, and today's focus is a critical step toward a brighter future," Glenn Prickett, chief external affairs officer with the Nature Conservancy, said in an email. □



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Politics, bribery charges swirl around Ugandan oil

RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) —

Even before the first drops flow, Uganda's oil sector is beset by bribery allegations against officials, tax-related cases abroad that cost the government millions in legal fees, and the alleged interference of a president whose firm control of the sector worries transparency campaigners.

Uganda, which has confirmed oil deposits of about 3.5 billion barrels, wants to extract at least 1.2 billion barrels over the next three decades. That figure could rise when more oil blocks are put up for exploration later this year, potentially making Uganda one of Africa's top oil producers.

But some experts and analysts worry that the country got off to a false start and remains too politically unstable to avoid some of the mistakes made by other oil-rich but otherwise poor countries.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has reserved for himself the right to have the final say before any deals are signed with oil companies, saying that policy is to ensure the country's interests are always protected. But some critics say the president's

close involvement is unhelpful to a country that needs to focus on building credible, transparent

fingered three government ministers he believed had been bribed by foreign oil companies seeking con-

many here hoped would be swift and decisive.

Almost two years later, that investigation is still ongoing and Gerald Karuhanga, the lawmaker who first alleged bribery, says he no longer looks forward to seeing the investigators' report, if it ever comes out. "It's taking forever," he said. "It's really unfortunate. I don't think they are serious about what they are doing. We are no longer enthusiastic about its release." Uganda has not had a single peaceful transfer of power since independence in 1962, and Museveni himself, in charge since 1986, faces growing pressure to retire. The East African country, which announced that it had commercially viable quantities of oil in 2006, hopes to become a producer of crude by 2016. That's about the time Museveni's current term expires, and many believe he will run again. Museveni's "interference" in oil matters makes Uganda less attractive in the eyes of foreign investors, according to Eurasia Group, a political risk think tank with headquarters in New York.

"Rising internal party discord in the ruling (party) — younger members are pushing for new leadership

— has triggered increased patronage payments by the president, especially over oil sector development," the group said in a report last month.

A new law gives the energy minister, a presidential appointee, the authority to issue and revoke oil contracts. Some say that, while it may have reduced officials' opportunities for corruption, the president's close involvement undermines the development of institutions such as a planned national oil company. "The primary risk we have is that the decision-making has been largely controlled by Museveni," said Angelo Izama, a Ugandan analyst who is researching the political economy of Uganda's oil wealth as an Open Society Foundations fellow in New York. "But he won't be around as an effective leader in the next 15 years. The question remains, 'How will this kind of narrow decision-making fare once you have another president?' The risk is that the political transition in Uganda is unpredictable."

The global intelligence think tank Stratfor said in a recent report that "Museveni's system of patronage going forward will have to be based on oil revenue. □



An oil well undergoes testing in the Lake Albertine region of western Uganda. (AP Photo/Monitor Publications Ltd)

institutions to manage its oil wealth whether or not Museveni is around.

In a session of parliament that sparked public uproar, an independent lawmaker

tracts with Uganda's government. The charges, denied by the three officials, forced lawmakers across the political spectrum to order an investigation that

Congo:

Journalist found dead in latest intimidation against press

MELANIE GOUBY

Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — The

body of a Congolese journalist was found on the bank of the Ngezi River near the provincial capital of Bunia in eastern Congo, the city's mayor said Saturday.

"We found his body yesterday in an advanced state of decay. It showed signs of strangulation according to the doctor who examined him on the scene. We couldn't move him further as it was very decomposed and had to bury him near the river," said Mayor Ferdinand Fimbo.

Guylain Chanjabo, a journalist at Radio Canal Révélation in Bunia, had disap-

peared 12 days ago. His body was found by people strolling alongside the riverbank.

The police have opened an investigation into the killing, said the mayor.

Chanjabo's death is the most serious of a growing list of abuses committed against journalists in Congo since the beginning of 2013. Over 54 cases of violation of press freedom have been recorded between January and the end of April by Journalistes En Danger (JED), a Congolese group campaigning for journalists' rights.

"Cases of abuse and intimidation of journalists have increased. It's intolerable," said Tuvur Wundi

a JED member in Goma. "The death of this journalist in Bunia is very serious."

In 2012, the group documented a record number of cases with 184 cases of violations of press freedom, including 78 incidents of censorship and 59 arrests of journalists.

The already difficult situation for journalists was worsened by the start of the conflict between the Congolese army and the M23 rebels, a Tutsi-led rebellion allegedly backed by Rwanda and Uganda. Both the army and the rebels have tried to control the media by imposing restrictions on journalists' movement, prohibiting access to the opposing side

or threatening journalists whose reports are deemed unfavorable.

Several journalists working in territory under rebel control have had to leave because of death threats.

"In March, the M23 had split in two factions and they were fighting each other. I was reporting on both sides and the rebels that were in Rutshuru center where I live did not like it.

They made clear to me that I should stop talking to the other faction. And then I received death threats," said Evariste Mahamba, a journalist at the local radio station Radio Ushirika.

Mahamba left the area and went to Kinshasa, Con-

go's capital, and his family moved to Beni, a town in the east of the country, for their safety.

"I had to leave my family in Beni, I had to leave all our possessions behind. It's not a comfortable situation," said Mahamba.

The movement made public apologies to journalists but several do not feel safe enough to come back in the area.

Radio Okapi, a radio station funded by the United Nations, saw its signal cut by the Congolese authorities because the station had broadcast an interview with members of the M23 after the rebels had temporarily seized the strategic city of Goma. □



At the Westin Aruba Resort & Casino: A special Caribbean closing reception for the CCLEC Conference

ORANJESTAD –The closing reception of the 35th annual Caribbean Customs and Law Enforcement Conference, took place late last week at the Westin Aruba Resort poolside area. It was a very cozy evening during which the representatives of the 38 member countries enjoyed a very infor-

mal closing of the conference in full 'Caribesque.' At the beginning of the reception, Nick Conner knew how to entertain the crowd with his steel pans, followed with a speech by the representative of the Minister in charge of Financial Affairs, Mr. Mike de Meza, Mr. Richard Arends,



who shared his thoughts and thanked the delegates for their presence. Afterwards followed the festive part, where Le

Groove had the party jumping with cool tunes around the pool. All invites were very enchanted not only with the conference

which takes place annually in different parts of the Caribbean, but also for the hospitality which was offered in Aruba. □



Team Aruba tops qualifying for second straight event!



ORANJESTAD/CORDOVA, Ill. May 18, 2013: When Mother Nature ended the ADRL Georgia Drags after qualifying, Extreme Pro Stock number one qualifier, Trevor Eman and Team Aruba, were disappointed to not defend their position in eliminations. At this

weekend's ADRL Spring Drags they've given themselves another chance, once again taking over the top spot in XPS. In just the first qualifying shot, the Aruba.com / Alltel Wireless Mustang laid down an impressive 4.099. That number would be good

enough to keep them on top through all four rounds of qualifying. Heading into the event, Team Aruba was determined to defend the number one position that got cut short at the Georgia Drags. That determination paid off, and they will once again be on

the pole for race day. "We are thrilled with our performance," told Eman. "We have put in a tremendous amount of hard work to be a front running team and to finally be here feels really good." The team from the "happy island" had some Aruban visitors cheering them on to this success. Synchronized swimming gold medalist, Anouk Eman, and Aruba Prime Minister, Mike Eman, were both on hand to witness Team Aruba's run to the top of the pack. "We loved having Anouk and Mike with us," added Eman. "We had a great celebration with them on Friday night and are really celebrating now after to-

day's performance." The eight car XPS field is separated by only four hundredths of a second going into eliminations, making for some impressive matchups on race day. Eman will face off against Brian Gahm, who qualified with a 4.139. "With a field this tight, it's anyone's game on race day," Eman continued, "but grabbing that coveted number one spot for the second event in a row has certainly boosted our confidence. We know we have what it takes to get to the winner's circle tomorrow, and we hope to keep that good island energy flowing to bring a trophy home to Aruba!" □

Making owners and employees proud at Paradise Beach Villas



EAGLE BEACH - As a relatively young company that continues to develop professionally, working hard in an environment of fun, Paradise Beach Villas wants to become an employer that makes our owners and employees proud. For this reason the management team recently underwent a Management Training project that was facilitated by Ms. Charlene M.C.C. Nectar, HRM Advisor of Advance Human Resources Services. This customized training is part of an overall on-going plan to upgrade the management team and make

them even stronger leaders in a constantly changing tourism industry. Participants went through a six-week training course after which they all were presented with a certificate of completion by Ms. Nectar. The graduates were: Jealda Damian Food & Beverage Manager, Alba Moreno Housekeeping Supervisor, Imelda Koolman, Assistant Controller, Patricia Rey Front Office Manager, Randal Tromp, Maintenance Manager and Willem Alexander Krozendijk, Housekeeping Manager. □

Beauty On The Beach

Luz Maria

She is visiting Aruba and staying at The Amsterdam Manor. Luz Maria de Rio is from Argentina

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day. Whether choosing Fried Fish Basket for only \$15 or a delicious Red Snapper for \$20, you wish it was Monday every day! Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical Chef Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m.

Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy a casual lunch in between sunbathing. A few nights a week Bugaloe is host to some of the best live bands of Aruba, while you are savoring dinner and enjoying the beautiful Aruba Sunset! Don't forget to make one hour in the day even happier at Bugaloe's daily

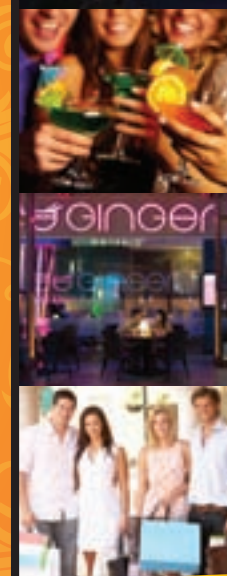


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Help protect Aruba's Marine Life and Reefs with the Jolly Pirates!



the classes were held upstairs at the Clubhouse of the Hadicurari Centro by MooMba Beach. Master Divers, Aruba's school teachers, Boat Captains,

the basics of sailing, water safety, snorkeling and safety gear.

It was of no surprise that most of the students in attendance were from sec-

Museum Foundation or the Aruba Marine Park Foundation or participate in their projects, by calling (297)736-2273, visit the Aruba Marine Park Foundation



HADICURARI - Aruba's Marine Park Foundation and the island's popular water sports operators, Jolly Pirates have created the "Protect the Reefs bracelet" program with set of three awareness bracelets to develop more reef care awareness and educational programs needed in Aruba.

The attractive bracelet trios can be yours with a \$15 donation to show your support Aruba's Marine Parks. This joint venture was first created between the Marine Park Foundation and Aruba's leading water sports operator, Jolly Pirates to create awareness for more healthful reefs, vital for Aruba's tourists to continue to enjoy year after year.

Tourists feel good knowing that 100% of their donation is being used to develop further awareness for Reef Care programs and the healthier implementation of a new system for pub-

lic moorings. The \$15 donation and cool looking bracelet trios make great giving too. Aruba's youth wrote essays on why they should be chosen to participate in first pilot summer sessions for the



Aruba Marine Park Foundation's first PADI skin diver's courses. Selected were twenty-seven students as the first for the successful pilot program. Instructed by Canicio Vander Biezen, the academic portion of

and Rescue workers joined forces for the big success of the program.

Instructing students on the importance of water safety and also protecting our marine life, sailing, snorkeling, diving and fish identi-

ond and third generation Water Sports families.

We encourage more to show their support and interest in the coming programs. We would like to take this time to thank the VOLUNTEERS and also the parents of the participants for encouraging their children to do their part in protecting Aruba's Marine Park!

A special thank you to those who made donations and wear your Jolly Pirates Awareness Bracelets! You can feel good knowing that your donations are being used well!

If you wish to help create more Awareness for the project, you can make a donation and wear one of the Save the Reef - bracelets for yourself. Bracelets also make great souvenir gifts and can be purchased at the Jolly Pirates Souvenir shop located at MooMba Beach.

Become a member of either the Aruba Heritage



face book page or email them at arubaheritagemuseum@gmail.com and or arubamarinepark@gmail.com ☐



Spain's Rafael Nadal bites the trophy as he poses for photographers after defeating Switzerland's Roger Federer at the final match of the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, Sunday, May 19, 2013. Nadal won 6-1, 6-3.

Associated Press

Nadal beats Federer, Serena wins

ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — After all these years, Rafael Nadal still knows how to dominate Roger Federer.

In the 30th meeting between the two tennis greats, Nadal controlled the final from start to finish to win 6-1, 6-3 Sunday for his seventh Italian Open title.

"Rafa was just too good today," Federer said.

It tied for the second most lop-sided win in the series since Nadal also lost just four games, but over three sets, in the 2008 French Open final against Federer. At the tour finals in London in 2011, Nadal allowed Federer just three games.

"For that to happen between two players with not that much difference, it has to be because one player plays very well and the other is having more mistakes than usual," Nadal said. "That's all."

Continued on Page 18

BEAR HUNTING



Spurs maul Grizzlies in series opener

Memphis Grizzlies' Tayshaun Prince, left, is fouled by San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan during the second half of Game 1 of the Western Conference final NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, May 19, 2013, in San Antonio.

Associated Press
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Belmont Stakes: Oxbow vs. Orb in the cards

RICHARD ROSENBLATT

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Another year, another Triple Crown hopeful unable to come through.

After Oxbow upset Kentucky Derby winner Orb in Saturday's Preakness to extend racing's Triple Crown drought to 36 years, the next best alternative for the Belmont Stakes is a rematch.

And, it appears one is in the making. Both trainers are giving every indication their classic-winning colts will run in the Belmont on June 8.

"You know me," Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas said after Oxbow's 1 3/4-length victory over Itsmyluckyday, with 3-5 favorite Orb finishing fourth. "I like to rack them up in the big events. So, I'll probably go."

Trainer Shug McGaughey says he'd like to run Orb in the Belmont as long as the colt is doing well.

"The Belmont Stakes is on our radar screen," McGaughey said Sunday after arriving back at Belmont Park and checking on his Derby winner, who was vanned back earlier in the day.

After a talk with Orb's own-



Jockey Gary Stevens celebrates aboard Oxbow after winning the 138th Preakness Stakes horse race at Pimlico Race Course, Saturday, May 18, 2013, in Baltimore. Orb, the Kentucky Derby winner, trails at center and finished fourth.

Associated Press

ers Ogden Mills "Dinny" Phipps and Stuart Janney III, McGaughey said, "We just all came to the conclusion that we should just watch Orb and see. I think everything is in good shape. We'd like to run."

"But yesterday took a little bit out of him and he's already run five times this

year and it's only the middle of May. I'd sure like to have him fresh for Saratoga and a Jim Dandy/Travers kind of a go."

A year ago, there was great anticipation for a Triple try after I'll Have Another won the Derby and Preakness, but the colt was scratched the day before

the Belmont because of a tendon injury.

The most recent of 20 rematches between classic winners in the Belmont was two years ago, with Derby winner Animal Kingdom and Preakness winner Shackleford hooking up — but 24-1 long shot Ruler On Ice pulled the upset.

Hours after Oxbow's win at 15-1 odds gave Lukas his record 14th Triple Crown race win — and sixth Preakness — the trainer and his colt where on the road back to Churchill Downs.

If both show up for the 1 1/2 -mile Belmont, a formidable lineup of challengers could be waiting. Todd Pletcher has five possible starters: Derby runners Revolutionary (third), Overanalyze (11th) and Palace Malice (12th), as well as a pair of fillies in Dreaming of Julia and Unlimited Budget.

Other possibles include Derby runner-up Golden Soul, Mylute (fifth in the Derby, third in the Preakness), Freedom Child, Power Broker and Code West.

McGaughey was disappointed he couldn't follow up his first Derby win with his first Preakness win, but said, "Winning the Derby was my lifetime dream and we won it. I would have loved to have won yesterday and taken it to the next level."

Lukas, meanwhile, won his first Triple Crown race since 2000, when Commendable won the Belmont. Since that win, Lukas was 0-for-31 in 22 Triple Crown races before Saturday.

"I still enjoy doing this so much," he said. □

Italian Open

Continued on Page 18

Nadal improved to 20-10 in his career against Federer, and showed once again that he'll be the player to beat when the French Open at Roland Garros starts next Sunday. It was the fifth-ranked Spaniard's sixth title since returning earlier this year from a seven-month layoff due to a left knee injury.

"I'm playing much better than I dreamed of a few months ago," Nadal said. "I'm doing the right things to play well."

Federer complimented Nadal for the way he took his time before returning to the circuit.

"It goes to show that's what every player should do," Federer said. "Now he's as strong as ever and is going to be the favorite

for Roland Garros."

In the women's final, Serena Williams won her fourth consecutive title of the year in impressive fashion, defeating third-seeded Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 6-3. The top-ranked American will go to Paris on a career-best 24-match winning run. Williams was coming off consecutive titles in Miami; Charleston, South Carolina; and Madrid last week. She didn't drop a set while winning this title.

"I moved better than I did all week," Williams said. "Hopefully I can stay like this. I feel really good."

Federer hadn't previously dropped a set all week as well, but he had no reply for Nadal's topspin-heavy groundstrokes. The 17-time Grand Slam winner attempted serving and volleying, but he either missed the volley or Nadal passed

him with the return.

Federer lost 10 points to nine won at the net. He also committed 32 unforced errors to Nadal's eight.

"I was missing too many easy forehands," Federer said. "And if you don't stick your volleys or serve very accurate it's very difficult."



Serena Williams, of the United States, poses with the trophy after winning her final match against Belarus' Victoria Azarenka at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, Sunday, May 19, 2013. Serena Williams won her fourth consecutive title of the year in dominating fashion Sunday, beating third-seeded Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 6-3 in the Italian Open final.

Associated Press

It was 20th meeting between Nadal and Federer in a final, tying the Ivan Lendl-John McEnroe rivalry for most championship matchups in the Open era. Center court at the Foro Italico was packed to the limit with 10,500 fans, but the crowd didn't get to see too much tennis. The men's final took only 1 hour, 9 minutes — a far cry from the 2006 final in which Nadal beat Federer in a fifth-set tiebreaker after more than 5 hours. Rome remains one of the few important tournaments that Federer has never won. He also lost the 2003 final to Felix Mantila. The women's final Sunday was also a short affair.

On a pleasant spring day, Williams immediately took control by breaking Azarenka's serve twice to take a 3-0 lead in the opening set. □

Spurs rout Grizzlies 105-83 in opener

By JEFF LATZKE
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) -- The San Antonio Spurs opened the Western Conference finals resembling the past champions who've been there so many times before.

The Memphis Grizzlies looked like the first-timers still trying to adapt to their first conference finals appearance.

Tony Parker had 20 points and nine assists, Kawhi Leonard scored 18 points and the Spurs struck first by beating Memphis 105-83 on Sunday.

San Antonio raced out to a 17-point lead in the first quarter, then came up with a response when Memphis rallied to get within six in the second half. Both teams pulled their starters with over 5 minutes left and the Spurs leading by 21.

"I can promise you this: Nobody's happy in our locker room, because we were up 2-0 (in the West finals) last year and we lost," Parker said. "It's just one game. It means nothing. We still have a long way to go."

The Spurs avoided a repeat of their Game 1 loss when the teams met two years ago in the first round. The Grizzlies went on to knock San Antonio out of the playoffs as the top seed that time.

Memphis has lost its opener in each round in this year's playoffs, recovering from an 0-2 hole in the first round against the Los Angeles Clippers and an 0-1 deficit against Oklahoma City in the West semifinals.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in San Antonio.

"We just didn't play well. It's not anything specific," coach Lionel Hollins said. "It's just that we were running too fast, we missed some layups, we were taking bad shots and our defense was really awful. And the Spurs played well."

The NBA's stingiest defense wasn't up to its usual stan-

dards, allowing the Spurs to hit 53 percent of their shots and a franchise post-season-record 14 3-pointers while All-Star power forward Zach Randolph struggled. Randolph had just two points, getting his only basket with 9:26 left in the game.

He had a playoff-best 28 points and 14 rebounds in his last game, as Memphis eliminated defending West champ Oklahoma City in Game 5 on Wednesday night. "Obviously, he's their best scorer. He's a beast inside," Parker said. "We know he's not going to play like that every game. It's just sometimes it happens."

The Grizzlies started to rally as soon as Randolph came out of the game for the first time in the second half.

Quincy Pondexter made a baseline cut for a layup off Darrell Arthur's pass, then hit back-to-back 3-pointers during a 10-0 burst. Jerryd Bayless' two-handed, fast-break dunk off a steal got the Grizzlies within 62-56 with 3:43 left in the third quarter.

The comeback was short-lived, though.

Bayless missed a 3-pointer on the next trip, and Manu Ginobili was able to make one at the opposite end to spark an 11-1 response that immediately restored the Spurs' lead to 16 by end of the quarter. Leonard hit a pair of 3-pointers and Gary Neal had one as San Antonio kept pouring it on in the fourth.

The four regular-season meetings were all won by the team with more points in the paint, but perimeter shooting proved to be a bigger factor in the playoff opener. Memphis, which was second in the NBA by holding opponents to 33.8 shooting on 3-pointers, let San Antonio make 13 of its first 24 from behind the arc and finish 14 of 29.

Danny Green connected three times and scored 16, and Matt Bonner hit four

of his five attempts for 12 points.

"We did a good job of moving the basketball, finding each other, trusting each other," Green said. "Luckily we made some today."

Pondexter led Memphis with 17 points, Marc Gasol scored 15 and Mike Conley had 14 points and eight assists. "We were just so hyper, just running all over the place on defense," Hollins said. "We'd have four guys in the paint and nobody would be out on the perimeter guarding anybody. And that's not how we play defense." □



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker (9), of France, shoots over Memphis Grizzlies' Mike Conley (11) during the first half in Game 1 of a Western Conference Finals NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, May 19, 2013, in San Antonio. Associated Press

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Bae wins Byron Nelson for 1st PGA Tour title

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Sang-Moon Bae won the Byron Nelson Championship on Sunday for his first PGA Tour title, beating Keegan Bradley by two strokes after blowing a four-stroke lead. The 26-year-old South Korean closed with a 1-under 69 to finish at 13-under 267. Bradley was trying to become the Nelson's first wire-to-wire winner since Tom Watson in 1980. Bradley set the TPC Four Seasons course record with an opening 60 even with two bogeys, but finished with a 72 on a day with wind gusting to near 40 mph at times.

Bae already had 11 international victories — winning on the Korea, Japan and Asian tours.

Four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the front nine gave Bae a four-stroke advantage in the final group. But he struggled in the middle of the round, making a double bogey at No. 9 and a bogey at the next hole. Bradley, whose first PGA Tour victory came as a rookie at the Nelson two years ago, got even with a birdie at the 15th hole. But he missed a short birdie putt at the next hole to fall behind for good.

Charl Schwartzel, the 2011 Masters champ, shot a 68 to finish third at 10 under. His only bogey Sunday came at the closing hole,



Sang-Moon Bae of South Korea holds the trophy on the 18th green after winning the Byron Nelson golf tournament Sunday, May 19, 2013, in Irving, Texas.
Associated Press

where he hit his approach into a bunker and then hit through the green.

Bae won \$1.2 million, nearly matching his PGA Tour career earnings of \$1.6 million in his 42 previous starts. His best finish on tour had been a tie for second last year after getting into a four-man playoff at the Transitions Championship. Bradley had a couple of incredible par saves on the back nine before finally making his first birdie of

the round, a 17-footer that had just enough to get into the cup at the 463-yard 15th hole. That gave him a share of the lead when Bae missed a par putt there from just inside 6 feet. After Bae sank a 5-foot birdie at the par-5 16th hole, and was already walking to the next tee, Bradley had a shorter putt on the same line — it horseshoed around the hole and didn't fall. The par put Bradley a stroke back with two holes

to play, and he then hit his tee shot at the par-3 17th over the green and was unable to save par. That made it irrelevant that he finally had a par at No. 18, the hole he bogeyed the first three rounds.

When Bae hit his tee shot at the 17th green that is fronted by water, he watched anxiously and finally let out an obvious sigh of relief, bending his knees and leaning backward when the ball landed on the front edge of the green about 24 feet from the cup. He made the par, and Bradley was unable to scramble again.

Players wore red ribbons during the final round in memory of Ken Venturi, the 1964 U.S. Open champion and longtime CBS golf analyst who died Friday.

Justin Bolli shot a bogey-free 65 for the best round of the day and matched his career-best finish of fourth. A stroke further back at 272 were Morgan Hoffmann (66), Martin Kaymer (68) and Scott Piercy (72).

Tom Gillis, making his 150th PGA Tour start since 1993 and still without a win, started the final round only two strokes out of the lead. But he was already 6-over for his final round after a triple-bogey 7 at the sixth hole. He went on to a 76 and finished tied for 12th.

At No. 14, Bradley drove into the left rough between some trees and missed the

green before chipping to 5 feet to save par. On the par 3 just before that, his tee shot settled behind the green, but he hit from there to 8 feet and made that putt as well.

After Bradley's opening drive of the day landed in rough near a temporary lemonade stand, he hit over trees and a bunker to 15 feet and save par at the hole he bogeyed each of the first two rounds. His tee shot at the 202-yard second hole went into a bunker, but he made a 6-foot par putt. Bae's long putt off the back edge of that par-3 green slid just past the cup, causing him to step back and turn around in disbelief. He knocked in a 4-footer that circled the cup before falling. The lead swapped at the downwind, 502-yard third hole when Bradley's drive went left into the water. He bogeyed while Bae rolled in a 27-foot birdie putt and responded with a double fist pump. Bae built his lead to four strokes with three consecutive birdies, getting to 16 under when he two-putted from 33 feet at the par-5 seventh.

One of Bae's biggest reactions came after he made his par-saving 11-foot putt at the 462-yard eighth hole, where he drove into a fairway bunker and then had to hit back into the fairway before his approach shot. □

Jennifer Johnson wins Mobile Bay LPGA Classic

JOHN ZENOR

AP Sports Writer

MOBILE, Alabama (AP) — Jennifer Johnson won the Mobile Bay LPGA Classic on Sunday for her first tour title, birdieing four of the final six holes for a one-stroke victory over Jessica Korda and Pornanong Phatlum. The 21-year-old American closed with a 7-under 65 for a tournament-record 21-under 267 total on The Crossings course at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's Magnolia Grove complex.

A 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole secured the win. "Before I hit my birdie putt on 17, I saw that Pornanong was tied with me at 20 and I didn't want a playoff," Johnson said, adding that's when she decided: "I'm going to make this thing."

She two-putted for par on the final hole, tipped her cap and headed toward the practice range to hit a few balls in case of a playoff.

But Pornanong was already done and the lead

was safe even with Korda's closing birdie. Pornanong, a 23-year-old from Thailand, closed with a 63. Her previous best finish was third at the Kia Classic. Johnson had only one previous top-10 finish, an eighth-place tie at the 2011 Navistar LPGA Classic. "I'm a little shocked," Johnson said. "I didn't even realize I shot 65. The whole back nine, I don't know what was happening."


"The birdie putt on 17, that's when I started thinking a little more about win-



Jennifer Johnson poses with the trophy after winning the Mobile Bay LPGA Classic golf tournament at the Robert Trent Jones Trail at Magnolia Grove in Mobile, Ala. Sunday, May 19, 2013.
Associated Press

ning the tournament." She went home after missing her second cut of the year at the Kingsmill Cham-

pionship and switched to what she calls her "space-ship putter," so named because of its appearance. □



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Phils' Galvis, Kratz homer off Chapman in 9th

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Freddy Galvis and Erik Kratz each homered off closer Aroldis Chapman in the bottom of the ninth innings Sunday, helping the Philadelphia Phillies secure a stunning 3-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds.

Chapman (3-2) blew his second straight save opportunity after converting his first eight chances this season. Antonio Bastardo (2-1) pitched a scoreless ninth inning for Philadelphia. Jay Bruce homered and Homer Bailey tossed seven scoreless innings for the Reds. Joey Votto went 2 for 4 in extending his hitting streak to eight games. He is batting .515 (17 for 33) over the stretch.

Chase Utley's RBI single in the eighth inning snapped the Phillies' 16 scoreless innings skid.

MARLINS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1

MIAMI (AP) — Ricky Nolasco struck out 11 as the Marlins stopped a season-high seven-game losing streak by holding off Arizona. The Diamondbacks scored once in the ninth. Mike Dunn, the Marlins' third pitcher of the inning, got pinch-hitter A.J. Pollock to ground out on a 3-2 pitch with the bases loaded to end it.

Marcell Ozuna broke a scoreless tie with a two-run double in the sixth. Didi Gregorius had three hits for Arizona, which had won four in a row.

Nolasco (3-5) was coming off his worst start of the season, allowing six runs in five innings in a loss to Cincinnati on Tuesday.

Wade Miley (3-3) gave up two runs and five hits in six

innings while striking out six. **CARDINALS 4, BREWERS 2**

ST. LOUIS (AP) — David Freese had an RBI in a four-run fourth inning to go with big plays at third base, helping the Cardinals beat former teammate Kyle Lohse for the third time this season.

John Gast (2-0) won his second straight start in place of the injured Jake Westbrook and fellow rookie Seth Maness escaped a bases-loaded, none-out jam in the seventh to help the Cardinals win for the 14th time in 17 games.

Edward Mujica earned his 13th save in 13 chances after a third rookie, Trevor Rosenthal, gave up a hit in the eighth.

Lohse (1-5) has lost all three of his starts against St. Louis after going 16-3 for the Cardinals last season and then leaving in free agency when they opted to go with younger players. He gave up four runs in six innings, and is 0-4 overall in his last five starts.

Yuniesky Betancourt and Jeff Bianchi each drove in a run and Norichika Aoki had three hits and a walk for the Brewers, who have lost 14 of 17.

METS 4, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP) — Daniel Murphy hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning as the Mets beat the Cubs for their first series win at Wrigley Field since 2007. The Mets won two of three on this trip to Chicago.

Murphy hit a leadoff shot against reliever Kyuji Fukukawa (1-1). Murphy has homered twice in three games and has an eight-game hitting streak.

Mets rookie Juan Lagares hit his first major league homer, a tying, two-run drive in the seventh against Cubs starter Travis Wood.



Philadelphia Phillies' Freddy Galvis, center, is surrounded by his teammates after hitting a game-winning solo-home run in the ninth inning of a baseball game with the Cincinnati Reds, Sunday, May 19, 2013, in Philadelphia. The Phillies won 3-2.

Associated Press

Scott Rice (2-3) pitched two scoreless innings. Bobby Parnell earned his sixth save.

Wood hit his first homer of the season and fourth of his career.

PADRES 13, NATIONALS 4

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Andrew Cashner pitched 6 2-3 strong innings and Kyle Blanks and Will Venable homered off Dan Haren to lead the Padres to a victory against the Nationals and a split of their four-game series.

Cashner (3-2) allowed three runs and seven hits, struck out six and walked one.

The Padres tied their season high in runs and their 15 hits off four Nationals pitchers were two short of their season best.

San Diego's Yonder Alonso homered off Drew Storen leading off the eighth to finish 3 for 4 with two RBIs and three runs scored. It was his sixth homer.

The Nationals have lost two straight and six of nine.

Haren (4-5) got off to a rough start by allowing three runs in the first inning and was gone after the fourth-run fifth. Haren allowed nine hits while striking out five and walking two.

ROCKIES 5, GIANTS 0

DENVER (AP) — Juan Nicasio scattered three hits over six innings, Carlos Gonzalez and Troy Tulowitzki each drove in two runs as the Rockies won their first series over San Francisco in two years.

Dexter Fowler tied a career high with four hits to help the Rockies take three of four from the reigning World Series champions. Jordan Pacheco also drove in a run for Colorado.

Nicasio (4-1) shut down one of the top-hitting teams in baseball, striking out five and allowing only an intentional walk before being lifted for a pinch hitter in the sixth.

Barry Zito (3-3) couldn't get on track as he turned in a second straight ineffective outing. He allowed 11 hits and five runs in 5 2-3 innings.

BRAVES 4, DODGERS 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Ramiro Pena had a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in a four-run eighth inning, Jordan Schaffer drove in two runs and the Braves rallied against Los Angeles' beleaguered bullpen for a rain-soaked victory.

Kenley Jansen (1-3) was the loser for the second straight game, this time allowing one hit, two runs and a walk while getting just one out in a game twice delayed by rain for a total of 2 hours, 15 minutes.

Jansen began the eighth by allowing a single to Freddie Freeman and walking Brian McCann. Dodgers manager Don Mattingly brought in closer Brandon League for the first time in the series, but he fared no better than his teammate. □

A data trove now guides drug company sales pitches

KATIE THOMAS

© 2013 New York Times

In the old days, sales representatives from drug companies would chat up local pharmacists to learn what drugs doctors were prescribing. Now such shoulder-rubbing is becoming a quaint memory – thanks to vast databases of patient and doctor information being used by pharmaceutical companies to market drugs.

The information allows drugmakers to know which drugs a doctor is prescribing and how that compares to a colleague across town.

They know whether patients are filling their prescriptions – and refilling them on time. They know details of patients' medical conditions and lab tests, and sometimes even their age, income and ethnic backgrounds.

The result, said one marketing consultant, is what would happen if Arthur

Miller's Willy Loman met up with the data whizzes of Michael Lewis' "Moneyball." "There's a group of geeks, if you will, who are running the numbers and helping the sales guys be much more efficient," said Chris Wright, managing director of ZS Associates, which conducts such analyses for pharmaceutical companies.

Drugmakers say they are putting the information to good use, by helping doctors improve the chances that their patients take their medications as prescribed, or making sure they are prescribing the right drug to the right patients.

Some doctors, however, expressed discomfort with the idea of sensitive data being used to sell drugs, even though federal law requires that any personally identifiable information be removed.

"I think the doctors tend not to be aware of the depths to which they are

being analyzed and studied by people trying to sell them drugs and other medical products," said Dr. Jerry Avorn, a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and a pio-

neer of programs for doctors aimed at counteracting the marketing efforts of drugmakers. "Almost by definition, a lot of this stuff happens under the radar – there may be a sales pitch,

but the doctor may not know that sales pitch is being informed by their own prescribing patterns."

The research firm IMS Health has tracked information about which drugs doctors prescribe since the 1990s, and over the past decade the list of available information has expanded to include insurance claims data, which yields a trove of intelligence about patients' medical diagnoses and insurance coverage. Additional details about patients, including income, education and ethnicity, can also be available.

One company, SDI Health, promises to provide clients with "actionable analysis" by tracking people – on an anonymous basis – as they move through the "patient experience."

That includes, according to their website, filling prescriptions at a pharmacy, visiting a doctor, being admitted to the hospital and undergoing lab tests.

"Through our unique and proprietary patient-linking technology, we connect all aspects of a patient's behavior," the company's website states. IMS Health acquired SDI in 2011.

"The sales representative theoretically has the ability to understand not only the doctor's behavior, and which other physicians are key opinion leaders that the doctor listens to, but also the behavior of that doctor's patients," said Jerry Maynor, the director of marketing for North America at Cegedim Strategic Data, one of the companies that performs data analyses.

Some said that tracking physicians' behavior was no different from techniques other industries use to sell products, including following a consumer's Internet activity. But David Orentlicher, a law professor at Indiana University who writes on medical ethics issues, said the pharmaceutical companies' use of data has become more invasive. "A lot of the information comes out of the doctor-patient encounter," he said. □



Dr. David May, a cardiologist who does not allow drug sales agents to meet doctors in his practice, at his office in Lewisville, Texas. Databases allow pharmaceutical companies to know what drugs a doctor prescribes, whether the patient is taking them and how often they are refilled.

(Rex C. Curry/The New York Times)

Doctor takes molecular path for maternal health

Anita Hassan

© 2012 Houston Chronicle

As a young medical student, Dr. Kjersti Aagaard pondered how she could channel her passion for women and children to benefit the most lives. Now, more than a decade later, the Baylor College of Medicine assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology is tackling that question and she's doing it, so to speak, by putting a molecular microscope on the womb.

Inside a lab on the third floor of the Baylor College of Medicine, Aagaard and her 12-person team of researchers and scientists are constantly on the cusp of maternal fetal medicine: examining the molecular footprint left behind on placenta from tobacco, discovering how a pregnant woman's diet can reprogram her unborn child's DNA and looking at the role that microbiomes – the trillions of bacteria, fungi and other microbes living in the human body – can have

on premature birth. Just to name a few.

Her over-arching goal: "How can we impact women's health now, not just for their well-being, but for their children, their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren's well-being," Aagaard said.

And she's tackling these issues from every possible angle. For Aagaard, every woman and every birth counts.

"The thing that's impressed me is the vision she has for a condition like pre-term labor (pre-mature birth)," said Michael Belfort, who chairs Baylor's obstetrics and gynecology department and is obstetrician-gynecologist in chief at Texas Children's Hospital. "She's able to look at it through the spectrum of the microbiome, the genetics and the molecular biology and then to put all of those pieces together to get the big picture."

Beyond looking at just the human genes, Aagaard is also studying microbiomes.

Currently, scientists are trying to sequence the genes of hundreds of these bacteria, fungi and microbes to understand the effects they have on people.

Aagaard is looking at the vaginal microbiome and how the microbes it contains affect the risk of giving premature birth.

"Kjersti distinguished herself and emerged as one of the people who had a particular understanding of the aspect of the microbiome that would be important to women," said George Weinstock, assistant director of the Genome Institute at Washington University in St. Louis, who worked with Aagaard on the National Institute of Health's Human Microbiome Project.

"She is one of the first people to do benchmark studies with the microbiome and maternal fetal medicine."

Nearly two years ago, Aagaard took her work global. She began a project to study whether preventing gum disease could

lead to a decrease in premature birth in Malawi, where babies are more frequently born early than anywhere else in the world. Her team is focused on whether a sugar alcohol in some chewing gum, mints and candies, known to fight off a bacteria that causes tooth decay, can prevent gum disease in Malawian women and, in turn, reduce the number of pre-term births in the country.

Aagaard said she anticipates that later this year, the findings from the first part of the project will be released.

But she's already seeing the impact of her work. Last New Year's Eve, she received an email from a Malawian researcher on her team. He wrote that her work had inspired him to dedicate his life to promoting the health and well-being of every woman in his country.

The women in his village even started to call him, "Mr. Maternity." □



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Expectations high for next Microsoft Xbox

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's almost time for a new Xbox. Eight years have passed since Microsoft unveiled the Xbox 360, double the amount of time between the original Xbox debut in 2001 and its high-definition successor's launch in 2005. With the next-generation Xbox expected to be revealed Tuesday, anticipation for the entertainment console's latest evolution is running high. "People get excited about

just be cool the day you buy it, but in five years from now, it will be even cooler." The platform has been the exclusive home to such popular gaming franchises as science-fiction shoot-'em-up "Gears of War," racing simulator "Forza" and first-person shooter "Halo," starring super-soldier Master Chief. In recent years, Microsoft expanded the console's scope beyond just games, adding streaming media apps and the family-friendly Kinect system.

and Sony's PlayStation 3. Nintendo said it sold just 3.45 million units by the end of March, well below expectations. Microsoft will likely take aim at Sony during Tuesday's next-generation Xbox unveiling at its headquarters in Redmond, Washington state. Sony was first to showcase plans for its upcoming PlayStation 4 — but not the actual box — at an event in New York last February. The reaction to that console, which featured richer graphics and more social features, was mixed.

Totilo said to wow gamers with the next Xbox, Microsoft must show off great games for it that players will crave, as well as technology that feels futuristic. He said there's concern from Xbox fans that Microsoft has lost interest in hardcore gamers with their recent efforts to attract casual gamers with the Kinect, its camera-based system that detects motion. There will be at least one hardcore game showcased at Microsoft's event: "Call of Duty: Ghosts," the next chapter in the popular military shooter franchise

the approach that both Microsoft and Sony are taking to the next generation. Our business, of course, depends on them launching this new hardware, so we want to do everything we can to help." For the past five years, questions and rumors about a new Xbox have circulated more than the chainsaw on the end of a "Gears of War" rifle. What will the new Xbox be called? How much will it cost? Will it play used video games? Blu-ray discs? Will it be backwards compatible? Must the Kinect always be on? Will it require a connection to the Internet? It's that rumor about an always-on Xbox which has ignited the most nega-

tive comments on social networks, according to research firm Fizziology. Overall, Fizziology said gamers seem to be more jazzed about a potential new Xbox, with 32 percent of the chatter positive compared to 10 percent of the sentiment negative in on-line conversations. "I think because people have been waiting a long time, expectations are higher," said Laurent Detoc, North America president of Ubisoft Entertainment. "As a result, they may not be seeing what they anticipated. In the end, from the research we've done, there's a strong appetite for new machines. I have no doubt they're going to sell extremely well." □



In this product image released by Microsoft, a Project Natal sensor for the XBOX 360 is shown. The sensor tracks a player's full body movement while responding to commands, directions and a shift of emotion in voice without the need for a controller.

Associated Press

new consoles because consoles represent the future," said Stephen Totilo, editor of gaming site Kotaku.com. "When you buy a new console, you're essentially investing in five years of your future in the hopes that this box won't

The next generation of gaming already got off to a rocky start last November when Nintendo launched the Wii U, the successor to the popular Wii system featuring an innovative tablet-like controller yet graphics on par with the Xbox 360

from "Modern Warfare" developer Infinity Ward. Activision-Blizzard Inc. previously announced that "Ghosts" would be on display Tuesday and will be available for both current and next-generation consoles. "They wanted 'Call of Duty' on their stage to show off what next gen is capable of," said Eric Hirshberg, CEO of Activision Publishing. "We're excited about



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Great Expectations: The truth on fees, warts and all

PAUL SULLIVAN

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Here's a sales pitch you don't often hear: Let us invest your money. You can count on a return of 3 percent, though there is a chance it will be less. But we can guarantee this return for 10 years.

Sure, the 12 percent returns of Bernard L. Madoff proved ephemeral, and the financial crisis lowered investors' expectations. But 3 percent? Maybe less? That certainly seems to be a meager return, particularly given the stock market's fast start this year.

Yet this was the pitch I heard when I met Jeff Maurer, chief executive of Evercore Wealth Management, and John Apruzzese, Evercore's chief investment officer. They formed the firm four years ago with several former executives from U.S. Trust. I joked

inflation and fees — both theirs and those of the outside managers they use.

"One of our key principles was transparency on fees, which has hurt us," Maurer said. "Another was how we talked about what could happen in a downturn, which has also hurt us."

Maurer said his firm preferred to say that there was a chance your portfolio could go down 25 percent, instead of trying to attach a probability to its happening. Saying there was a 1 percent chance, he said, was misleading because the chance of a market collapse like the one in 2008 was small. But it happened nonetheless.

Fees, of course, are a constant source of friction in investing. If you are the type of person who believes it is impossible to get better than the market rate of return, then you probably

Apruzzese made a point of disclosing all the charges, even the ones investors would not see. With that knowledge, investors could understand what those fees were doing to their portfolios' returns.

So I asked to come back and play a prospective client to see how they revealed the fees. For the record, I was not assessing the quality of their advice or their offerings but how they presented likely returns, warts and all.

So what about Evercore's fees? That came a few pages later, although Maurer said most clients did not focus on them the way I did.

"It's about explaining what the fees are," he said. "We don't get a placement fee or any revenue sharing. We try to get the lowest fees possible for that investment solution." Like most wealth management firms, Evercore has a sliding scale for what it charges for its advice — the more money you have, the lower the fee. On \$10 million, the management fee was 0.88 percent, although no fee was charged on the \$1.5 million in company stock. The firm manages municipal bonds and core equity portfolios itself but does not charge a fee on top of the management fee. This equated to \$76,250 a year to them. On the \$4.5 million of the portfolio invested with outside managers, the fees were 1.03 percent or \$46,480. Many of those fees, though, would normally be deducted from the returns of the funds in a way that most investors would not notice. Apruzzese said calling attention to those fees was important.

In total, the fictional me paid 1.23 percent of the portfolio, or \$122,730, in annual fees.

"By expressing it in dollars, that makes a real impact on clients," Apruzzese said. "Most advisers talk in percentages or, worse, basis points, and no one knows what a basis point is." □



Jeff Maurer, right, the chief executive of Evercore Wealth Management, with John Apruzzese, the company's chief investment officer, in New York, May 14, 2013. When discussing investment returns, Evercore factors in fees, taxes and inflation -- and loses some potential clients in the process.

(Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times)

with them that offering such measly returns did not seem to be a good way to win new business.

"We don't win every client we pitch," Apruzzese said. It turns out, though, that these low returns do not come from poorly performing investments. The firm is simply being honest. That 3 percent return includes projections on performance of many types of investments but also assumptions on tax rates,

believe that the lowest-fee index fund or exchange-traded fund is the way to go. On the other hand, if you are the type of person who believes that managers can get returns higher than the market average, you may be willing to pay higher fees, calculating that the net return will be better or at least the swings in the investments' value will be less volatile.

What piqued my interest was that Maurer and



Yahoo CEO Marissa Meyer poses for a photo at the Yahoo! On the Road Concert Series at Turner Hall, Sunday, May, 12, 2013 in Milwaukee. Reports suggest Yahoo may be on the verge of closing its biggest acquisition during the 10-month reign of CEO Mayer.

(AP Photo/Barry Brecheisen)

Report:

Yahoo nearing \$1.1B acquisition of Tumblr

NEW YORK (AP) — Yahoo may be on the verge of closing its biggest acquisition during the 10-month reign of CEO Marissa Mayer as she tries to attract more traffic and advertisers to the Internet company's website and mobile applications.

The Sunnyvale, California, company's board of directors met Sunday evening to consider approving a \$1.1 billion acquisition of online content-sharing site Tumblr in a deal Mayer negotiated, according to the technology news site All Things D. The story posted cited anonymous sources.

If Yahoo Inc.'s board signs off, the deal could be announced Monday.

In an invitation sent Friday, Yahoo promised to unveil "something special" Monday evening in New York. The event is being held in a Times Squares lounge located about two miles (three kilometers) from Tumblr's headquarters.

Yahoo has only said that Mayer will be on hand to unveil something related

to a product. A company spokeswoman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment about the potential Tumblr acquisition.

Buying Tumblr would fulfill Mayer's goal of reaching a wider audience on smartphones and tablet computers.

Tumblr serves up a constantly changing collage of stories, photos and other digital content served up by users who are increasingly connecting to the service through its mobile applications. The service is also one of the hottest sites among teens and young adults, a demographic that Mayer, 37, thinks Yahoo needs to do a better job of reaching.

If it's completed, the Tumblr deal would be Mayer's biggest coup — and, at the same time, the biggest risk — since she ended her 13-year career as a key executive at Google Inc. to try to snap Yahoo out of a prolonged malaise that had demoralized employees and investors alike. □

Bernanke forecasts gains from computer technology

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke says pessimists forecasting that the economy will not reap sizable benefits from the computer revolution are likely to be proven wrong.

Bernanke told a college graduating class Saturday that the long-range practical consequences of innovations such as faster computers and the Internet are hard to predict. But he said inventors have only scratched the surface of the commercial applications that can be obtained in such fields as medicine and clean energy.

Bernanke's remarks came in a commencement address at Bard College at Simon's Rock, a small liberal arts college in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Bernanke's son Joel graduated from the school in 2006.

The Fed chairman did not make any comments

about interest rates in his speech, saying he wanted to use his address to focus not on short-range economic problems but to speak about economic growth measured in decades.

"We live on a planet that is becoming richer and more populous and in which not only the most advanced economies but also large emerging market nations like China and India increasingly see their futures as tied to technological innovation," Bernanke said in a text of his remarks, which were released in Washington.

"The number of trained scientists and engineers is increasing rapidly, as are the resources for research being provided by universities, governments and the private sector," he said.

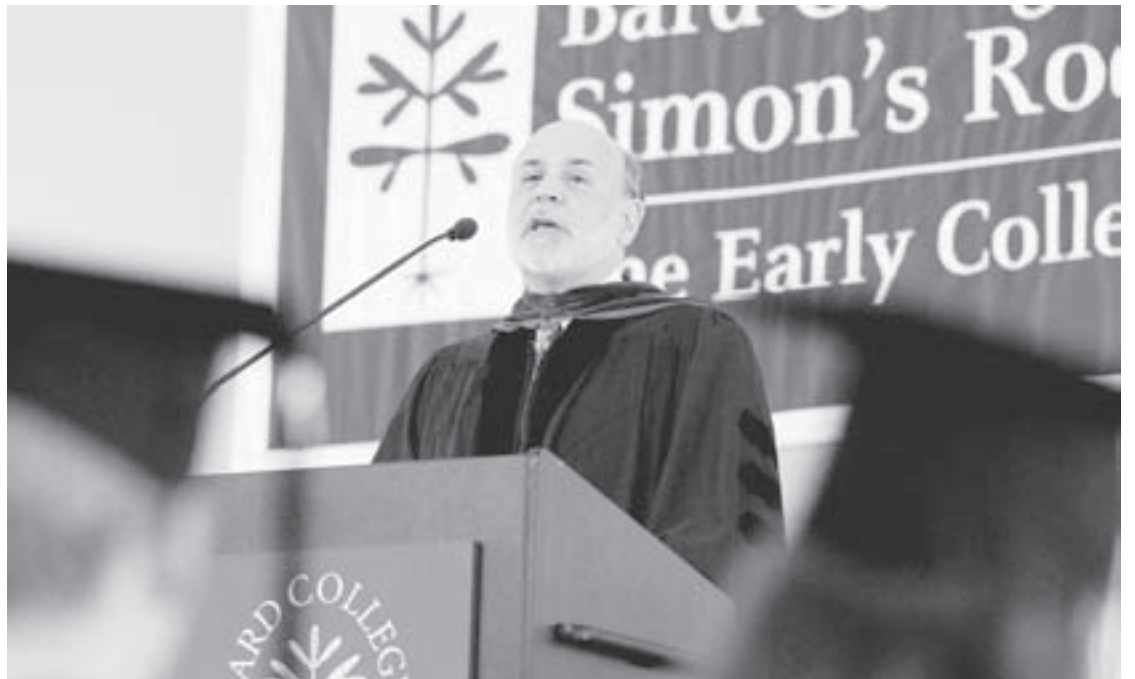
"Both humanity's capacity to innovate and the incentives to innovate are greater today than at any other time in history."

Bernanke cited these factors to bolster the view that the current computer revolution will prove just as beneficial to increasing living standards as past industrial revolutions that gave the world the steam engine

and railroads and then later electricity and airplanes. The Fed chairman told the new graduates that the best way to succeed will be to keep learning.

"During your working lives, you will have to reinvent

yourselves many times," he said. "Success and satisfaction will not come from mastering a fixed body of knowledge but from constant adaptation and creativity in a rapidly changing world." □



Chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke delivers the commencement address at the graduation ceremonies for Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Mass. on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Stephanie Zollshan)

Salisbury Column:

Manage your credit well and watch your credit score improve

Susan Salisbury

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — How much does your credit score matter?

The score matters a lot and can make a big difference in what you pay for everything from a mortgage to a car loan. "Credit scores have become so influential in the lives of most consumers that tens of millions are severely disadvantaged by their lack of knowledge about these scores," said Stephen Brobeck, Consumer Federation of America's executive director.

"Low credit scores will often cost car buyers more than \$5,000 in additional finance charges and cost home purchasers tens of thousands of dollars in additional mortgage loan costs. And low scores are likely to limit consumer access to, and increase the cost of, services such as cellphone service, electric service, and rental hous-

ing," Brobeck said.

CFA and VantageScore Solutions, a Stamford, Conn., credit rating system developed as an alternative to FICO scores, released a consumer survey recently that revealed that many Americans know little about credit scores. More than 1,022 adult Americans were quizzed by telephone. Here are some of the survey's findings:

-- Two-fifths do not know that credit card issuers and mortgage lenders use credit scores in decisions about credit availability and pricing.

-- Two-fifths incorrectly believe that personal characteristics such as age and marital status are used in calculating credit scores. They are not.

-- Between one-quarter and one-third do not know when lenders are required to inform borrowers of the credit score used in their lending decision. Lend-

ers must inform consumers about their score after they apply for a mortgage, when they are turned down for a loan, and when they don't receive the best price or other terms.

-- Between one-third and two-fifths do not know that the credit scores of co-signers of a student loan are affected by that loan - improving if payments are made on time and declining with one late payment.

-- More than one quarter do not know key ways to raise or maintain their scores -- keeping credit card balances low and not applying for several cards at the same time.

-- More than one-third incorrectly believe that credit repair agencies are always or usually helpful in correcting credit report errors and improving scores. To help consumers learn more about credit scores, CFS and VantageScore Solutions have updated their

interactive quiz -- CreditScoreQuiz.org, which has already been taken by 35,000 people.

Here's a question from the quiz: Which of the following does a credit score typically measure? Knowledge of consumer credit? Attitude toward consumer credit? Amount of consumer debt? Risk of not repaying a loan? Financial resources to pay back loans?

The correct answer is: Risk of not repaying a loan.

Back to the telephone survey. The question that most people answered incorrectly was whether making several inquiries about getting a consumer or mortgage loan in a one- to two-week time period will lower their FICO and VantageScore Solutions credit scores. The answer is no, it will not.

"Consumers should not worry that comparison shopping for a loan in a week or two will lower their

scores," said CFA's Brobeck. "And this shopping will help ensure they obtain the lowest possible price for that loan."

Women surveyed knew more about credit scores than the men who were quizzed. Brobeck said that's probably because women are more likely to manage family finances and have made the effort to learn about credit scores.

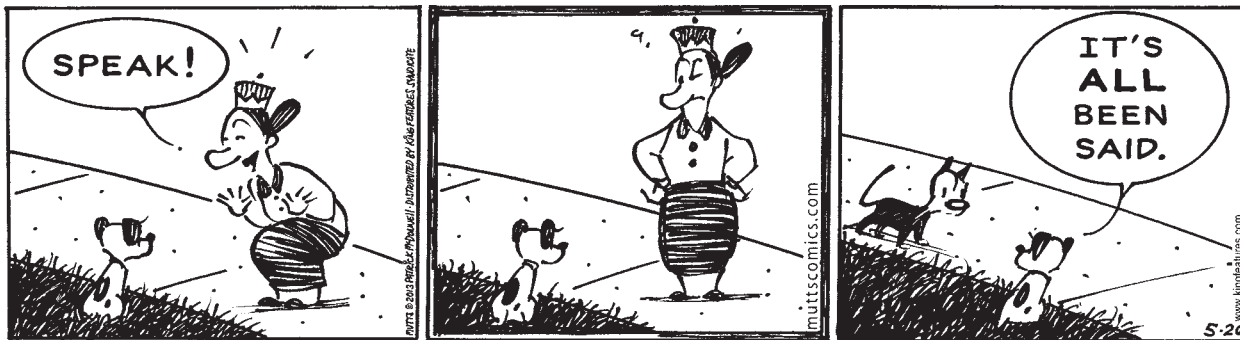
A credit score is based on payment history. It takes about nine months, on average, for a consumer with a low score to bring it back up, except in the case of bankruptcy, said Barrett Burns, CEO of VantageScore Solutions.

Consumers can raise their credit scores by:

-- Consistently paying their bills on time every month.

-- Not maxing out, or even coming close to maxing out, their credit cards or other revolving credit accounts. □

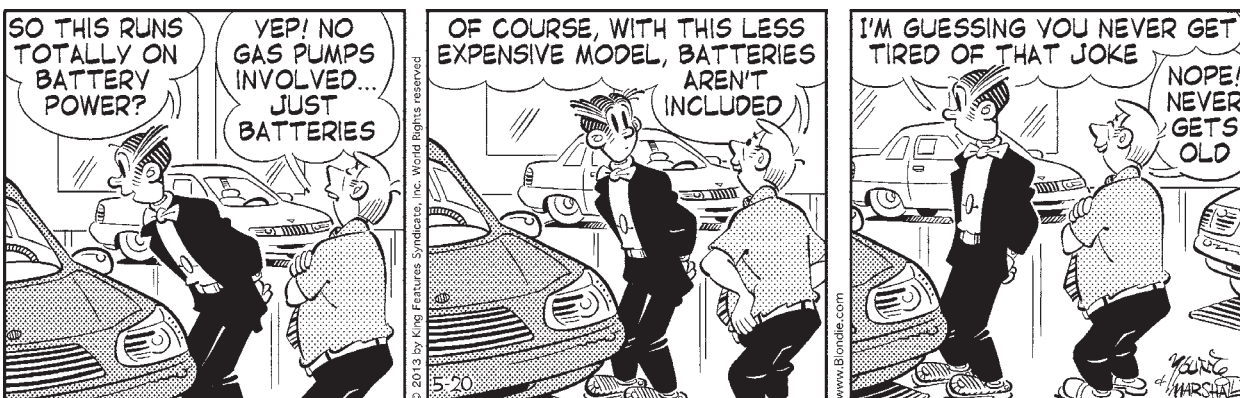
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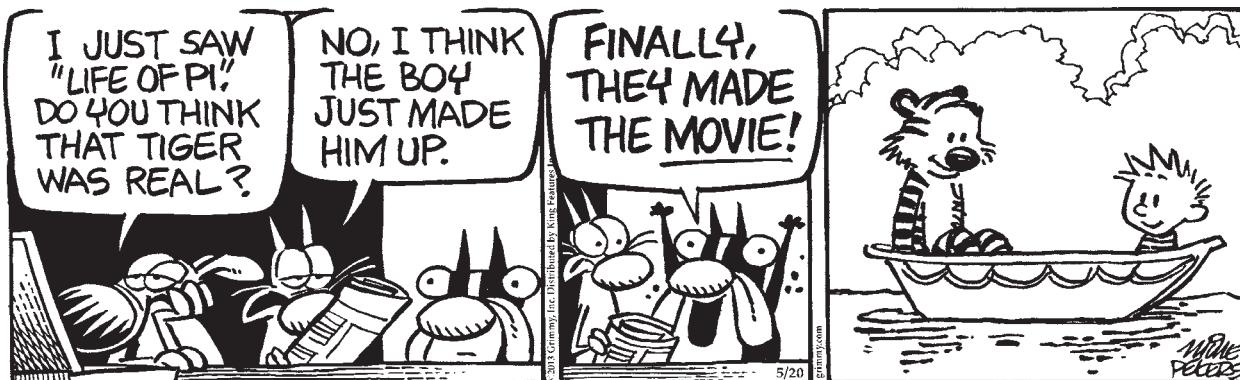
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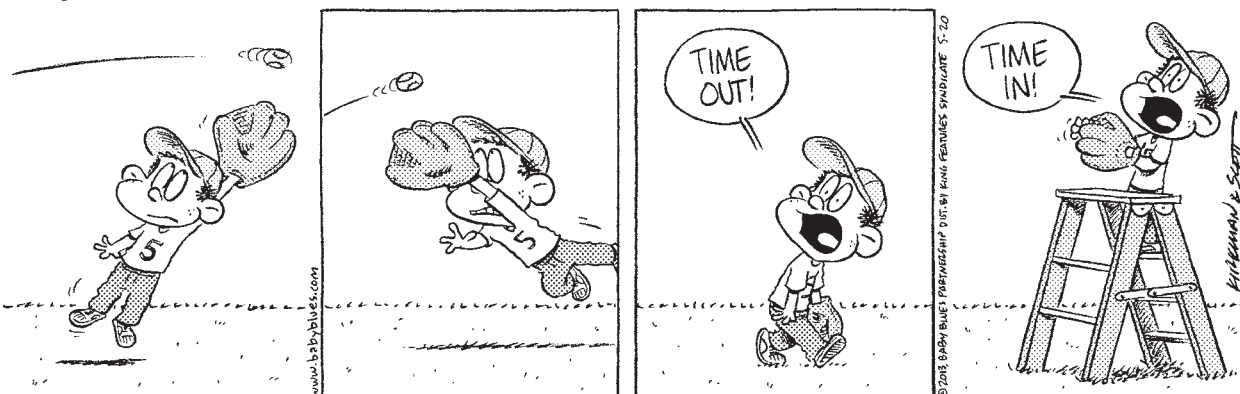
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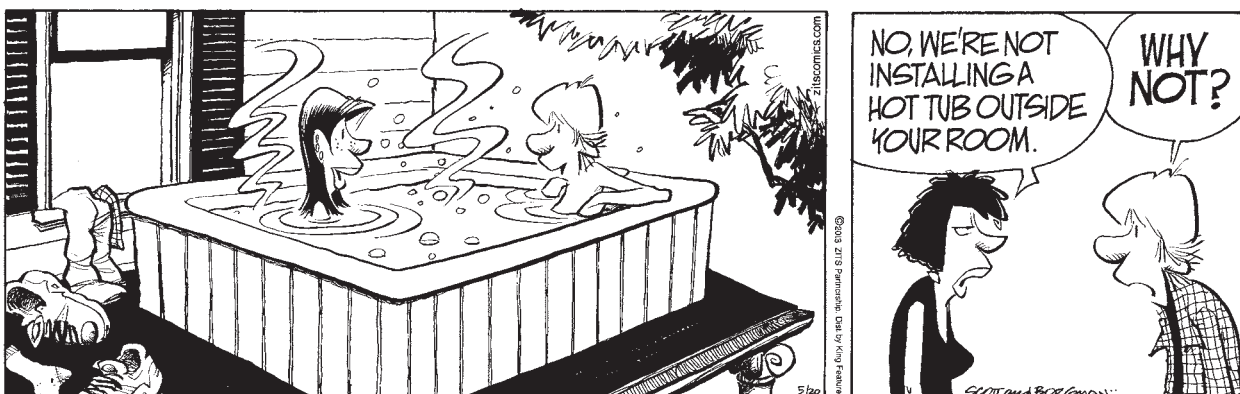
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				2	7	9		
	7	8	4	6				
	9		8					7
	4	1		7				3
7	3						4	8
6				1		7	2	
3					5		7	
				9	2	6	3	
		4	7	8				

Difficulty Level ★

5/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

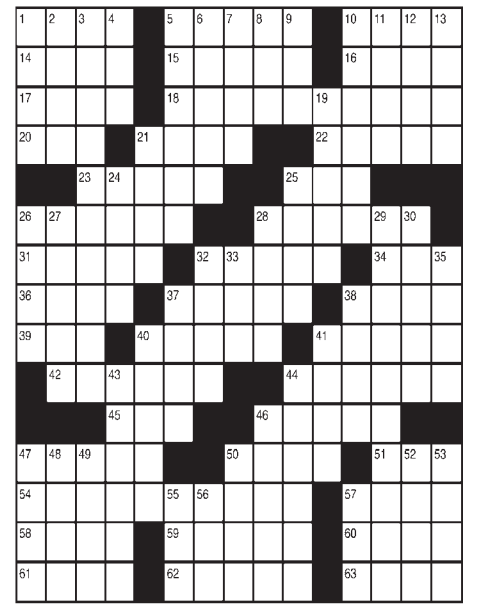
2	6	1	8	5	9	7	3	4
8	9	3	7	2	4	6	5	1
7	4	5	6	3	1	2	9	8
9	7	4	2	8	5	1	6	3
6	1	8	3	4	7	5	2	9
5	3	2	9	1	6	4	8	7
3	8	7	4	6	2	9	1	5
4	5	6	1	9	8	3	7	2
1	2	9	5	7	3	8	4	6

ACROSS

- Ladder rung
- Force; urge on
- Messy fellow
- Congressman's gofer
- Clamor
- Skater Lipinski
- "Once ___ a time..."
- Disheartened and fed up
- Nov.'s follower
- Skillets
- Way too big
- Dutch cheeses
- Four qts.
- Fancy bed's cloth awning
- Actor James of "Gunsmoke"
- Extreme
- Heroic tales
- Feminine pronoun
- Solidified
- Walk leisurely
- Uncovered
- J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.
- Twain and Harmon
- Immature insect stage
- Very cold
- historical period
- Leaked
- ___ lift; T-bar, for one
- Huge fire
- Diminish
- Lounge about
- Currently
- In ___; without excessiveness
- ___ down; become quieter
- Labyrinth
- Bosom
- Make a tiny cut
- City near Provo
- SAT and others
- "By the Time ___ to Phoenix"

DOWN

- Tater
- Sticky strip



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/20/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

POT	EBBED	BOAT
EXIT	TROVE	EDGY
PERU	HIRES	NOOK
NEEDINESS	URGE	
SICK	ELM	
ABIDES	BERI	BERI
DANAS	GRATE	LET
ALLY	PIERS	GAGA
GEE	SAVES	PETAL
ESTEEMED	SURELY	
GAP	WORM	
FLOG	EMBARRASS	
ROAN	ROAST	NOAH
ECHO	ELITE	ERGO
THUG	DETER	EAT

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5/20/13

- Three kings of biblical fame
- Singer Joan ___
- Creator
- Page of a book
- Regard highly
- Inclines
- Give a helpful lift to
- Bullets
- Wild hog
- Shaping tool
- Reclines
- Mayberry kid
- Cried
- Play division
- Definite article
- Fraternity letter

IRS accusations suffer from statistical flaw

NATE SILVER

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The Internal Revenue Service is under fire for inappropriately targeting conservative groups that sought tax-exempt status. The revelation has the potential to motivate conservative voters in the 2014 midterm elections, potentially costing Democrats as they seek to gain seats in the House and retain control of the Senate. Some conservatives, however, are alleging that there is another component to the scandal. They accuse the IRS of targeting not just conservative groups that sought 501(c)(4) status, but also individual taxpayers who oppose President Barack Obama or support conservative causes. The critics are surely correct that many conservative taxpayers were audited. In fact, it is likely that hundreds of thousands of Mitt Romney voters were selected for an audit last year. However, it is also likely that hundreds of thousands of Obama's supporters were

audited. Although the percentage of taxpayers who are audited is relatively low – about 1 percent of filers – the number of taxpayers is so large that this still yields well more than 1 million audits every year. Last year, the IRS conducted just shy of 1.5 million audits out of 144 million individual income tax returns. The probability of being audited was highest for high-income taxpayers: About 12 percent of individuals who made more than \$1 million were audited in 2012. But taxpayers who reported little to no income were audited at higher rates than those who earn average incomes. (About one-third of audits pertained to people who claimed the earned-income tax credit, a benefit for low earners.) Combining this data with national exit poll numbers on voting by income bracket, it is possible to estimate how many voters for Romney and Obama would have been audited last year – if an individual's

chance of being audited was related to income but otherwise unrelated to political views. This results in an estimate that about 380,000 of Romney's voters were audited last year, as were about 480,000 of Obama's voters. This calculation assumes that an individual's risk of being audited is independent of political views. In fact, there is no way to know exactly how many supporters of each candidate were chosen for an audit, nor could there be, since individual-level voting and audit records are private. The point is that even if there were no political targeting at all, hundreds of thousands of conservative voters have been chosen for an audit in the IRS' normal course of business. □

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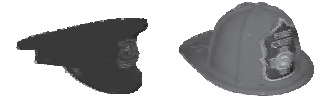
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Honeybees trained in Croatia to find land mines

DARKO BANDIC
DUSAN STOJANOVIC
Associated Press
ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)

— Mirjana Filipovic is still haunted by the land mine blast that killed her boyfriend and blew off her left leg while on a fishing trip nearly a decade ago. It happened in a field that was supposedly de-mined. Now, unlikely heroes may be coming to the rescue to prevent similar tragedies: sugar-craving honeybees. Croatian researchers are training them to find unexploded mines littering their country and the rest of the Balkans. When Croatia joins the European Union on July 1, in addition to the beauty of its aquamarine Adriatic sea, deep blue mountain lakes and lush green forests, it will also bring numerous un-cleared minefields to the bloc's territory. About 750 square kilometers (466 square miles) are still suspected to be filled with mines from the Balkan wars in the 1990s. Nikola Kezic, an expert on the behavior of honeybees, sat quietly together with a group of young researchers on a recent day in a large net tent filled with the buzzing insects on a grass field lined with acacia trees. The professor at Zagreb University outlined the idea for the experiment: Bees have a perfect sense of smell that can quickly detect the scent of TNT.

"Our basic conclusion is that the bees can clearly detect this target, and we are very satisfied," said Kezic, who leads a part of a larger multimillion-euro program, called "Tiramisu," sponsored by the EU to detect land mines on the



In this Wednesday, May 15, 2013 photo, bees gather at a glass filled with a solution containing traces of explosives, during a scientific experiment at the Faculty of Agriculture at Zagreb University. Croatian researchers, working on a unique method to find unexploded mines that are littering their country and the rest of the Balkans, are confident they can use bees for detecting land mines. Associated Press

continent.

Several feeding points were set up on the ground around the tent, but only a few have TNT particles in them. The method of

middle."

"It is not a problem for a bee to learn the smell of an explosive, which it can then search," Kezic said. "You can train a bee,



Ante Ivanda, a de-miner, searches for land mines in Petrinja, central Croatia, Friday, May 17, 2013. Croatian researchers, working on a unique method to find unexploded mines that are littering their country and the rest of the Balkans, are confident they can use bees for detecting land mines. Associated Press

training the bees by authenticating the scent of explosives with the food they eat appears to work: bees gather mainly at the pots containing a sugar solution mixed with TNT, and not the ones that have a different smell.

Kezic said the feeding points containing the TNT traces offer "a sugar solution as a reward, so they can find the food in the

but training their colony of thousands becomes a problem." Croatian officials estimate that since the beginning of the Balkan wars in 1991, about 2,500 people have died from land mine explosions.

During the four-year war, around 90,000 land mines were placed across the entire country, mostly at random and without any plan or existing maps.

Dijana Plestina, the head of the Croatian government's de-mining bureau, said the suspected devices represent a large obstacle for the country's population and industry, including agriculture and tourism. In the nearly two decades since the end of the war, land mines have taken the lives of 316 people, including 66 de-miners, she said.

"While this exists, we are living in a kind of terror, at least for the people who are living in areas suspected to have mines," she said. "And of course, that is unacceptable. We will not be a country in peace until this problem is solved."

In 2004, Filipovic and her boyfriend were on a fishing trip that took them to a river between Croatia and Bosnia. "As we were returning hand-in-hand, my boyfriend stepped on a mine," the 41-year-old Filipovic said. "It was an awful, deafening explosion ... thousands of shrapnel parts went flying, hundreds ending up in my body. He was found dead several meters away, while I remained in a pool of blood sitting on the ground." She sued the Croatian government, saying the area wasn't clearly marked as a former minefield. "At first I thought I was asleep," she recalled. "Then I heard the voice of my father. I opened my eyes, and saw nothing. I thought I lost my eyes."

The government admitted

guilt in the case for failing to keep the minefield sign, but the court has yet to determine financial compensation.

It may be a while before the honeybees hit real minefields, Kezic said. First, they will conduct controlled tests, with real mines but which are marked.

Kezic said American researchers have in the past experimented with mine-searching bees, but TNT — the most common explosive used in the Balkan wars — wasn't part of their experiment because its smell evaporates quickly, and only small traces remain after time. Rats and dogs are also used to detect explosives worldwide, but unlike bees, they could set off blasts on the minefields because of their weight.

Even after the de-miners have done their job in an area, some land mines are missed and remain in the soil, and they are most often the cause of deadly explosions.

Once the experiment with bees proves scientifically reliable, the idea is to use them in the areas that have already been de-mined, where their movement would be followed with heat-seeking cameras, Kezic said.

"We are not saying that we will discover all the mines on a minefield, but the fact is that it should be checked if a minefield is really de-mined," he said. "It has been scientifically proven that there are never zero mines on a de-mined field, and that's where bees could come in." □

Eds: Adds details.

Mice return from a month in space

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian capsule carrying mice, lizards and other small animals returned to Earth on Sunday after spending a month in space for what scientists said was the longest experiment of its kind. Fewer than half of the 53 mice and other rodents who blasted off on April 19 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome survived the flight,

Russian news agencies reported, quoting Vladimir Sychoy, deputy director of the Institute of Medical and Biological Problems and the lead researcher. Sychoy said this was to be expected and the surviving mice were sufficient to complete the study, which was designed to show the effects of weightlessness and other factors of space

flight on cell structure. All 15 of the lizards survived, he said. The capsule also carried small crayfish and fish.

The capsule's orbit reached 575 kilometers (345 miles) above Earth, according to the news agencies, which said this was far higher than the orbit of the International Space Station. □

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'Trek' does \$70.6M but falls short of studio hopes

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Star Trek: Into Darkness" has warped its way to a \$70.6 million domestic launch from Friday to Sunday, though it's not setting any light-speed records with a debut that's lower than the studio's expectations.

The latest voyage of the starship Enterprise fell short of its predecessor, 2009's "Star Trek," which opened with \$75.2 million.

Since premiering Wednesday in huge-screen IMAX theaters and expanding Thursday to general cinemas, "Into Darkness" has pulled in \$84.1 million, well below distributor Paramount's initial forecast of \$100 million. The film added \$40 million overseas, pushing its total to \$80.5 million since it began rolling out internationally a week earlier.

The "Star Trek" sequel bumped "Iron Man 3" down to second place after two weekends on top. Robert Downey Jr.'s superhero saga took in \$35.2 million domestically to lift its receipts to \$337.1 million. Overseas, "Iron Man 3" added \$40.2 million, raising its international total to \$736.2 million and its worldwide tally to nearly



This undated publicity film image released by Paramount Pictures shows Chris Pine as Kirk, Zoe Saldana as Uhura and Zachary Quinto as Spock in a scene from the movie, "Star Trek Into Darkness," from Paramount Pictures and Skydance Productions.

\$1.1 billion. While "Iron Man 3" and "Into Darkness" did well overseas, they were outmatched by the debut of Baz Luhrmann's "The Great Gatsby," which followed its domestic debut a week earlier with a wide rollout internationally. "Gatsby" pulled in \$42.1 million overseas, coming in a bit ahead of both "Iron Man 3" and "Into Darkness." Domestically, "Gatsby" held up well at No. 3 with \$23.4 million, lifting its total to \$90.2 million.

In today's Hollywood of bigger, better sequels, follow-up films often outdo the box office of their predecessors, as each "Iron Man" sequel has done. While "Into Darkness" earned good reviews and is getting strong word-of-mouth from fans, the film did not quite measure up to the opening weekend of director J.J. Abrams' "Star Trek" reboot from four years ago, at least domestically. "'Star Trek' remains a fan-boy movie. It doesn't

seem to have the same kind of cross-over appeal as say an 'Iron Man' or some of these others," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "It's a very specific brand, but I think the general public would love this movie, because it's such an action movie. But to get a hundred-million-plus opening weekend, unless you're 'Twilight,' you really have to cross over to all audiences."

Paramount points out that overseas business is up in many markets, though, so that worldwide, the sequel is off to a better start.

"Because of the nature of the franchise, because of how many movies have been made and the various forms of the TV shows, I'm not sure that 'Star Trek' goes by the rules of normal sequels. I think each movie stands on its own, because it's a unique franchise," said Don Harris, Paramount's head of distribution. "My goal was always that we grow the franchise. We're clearly seeing by today's numbers that the movie is being embraced on a worldwide basis in a way we've never seen before."

Harris said that domestically, "Into Darkness" finished its first weekend 6 percent ahead of revenues for 2009's "Star Trek," which got a head-start with \$4 million in Thursday night previews to give it a \$79.2 million haul through the first Sunday. But "Into Darkness" had a full day of screenings Thursday plus its Wednesday IMAX business. Unlike the first movie, which played only in 2-D, the sequel also had the benefit of 3-D screenings that cost a few dollars more. □

Ron Chernow receives biography award

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Ron Chernow was honored by his peers this weekend and in turn shared a few tips about his craft.

Chernow, 64, received the BIO award from the Biographers International Organization, a nonprofit established in 2010. During a lunchtime gathering Saturday at the Roosevelt Hotel in midtown Manhattan, Chernow spoke about some of his most famous subjects, from John D. Rockefeller to George Washington, and how their public reputations often

concealed a far more interesting private person.

"Once upon a time, biography was a very formal, straight-laced affair," said Chernow, a Pulitzer Prize winner in 2011 for his Washington biography. "But nowadays we all expect the enterprising biographer to ferret out that hidden self." The BIO award is given for making a "major contribution" to the field of biography. Previous winners include Robert Caro and Arnold Rampersad.

A former business journalist who has written for The Wall Street Journal and other publications, Chernow said he learned a

humbling lesson while researching "Titan," his 1998 biography of Rockefeller. Going through the oil baron's papers, Chernow had expected to unearth "sordid tales of collusion with the railroads, the bribing of entire state legislatures, the coercion of small retailers." Instead, he found only thousands and thousands of "cryptic little business letters" that avoided proper names and specifics of any kind, as if Rockefeller feared what he wrote would end up in the hands of "a prosecuting attorney or a Senate investigative committee." Back home, he expressed his dismay to



In this Monday, April 18, 2011, file photo, author Ron Chernow is photographed at his home in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Associated Press

his wife, Valerie, who in response was "not only smiling. She was beaming."

"I said to her indignantly, 'What are you smiling about?'" he remembered. "And she said to me ... 'You were looking for a typical business tycoon, and what

you've been given instead is a true original.' The lady, as always, was absolutely right. I was frankly pursuing a cliché. I was looking for this cartoon, whereas fate had handed me something much rarer and infinitely more interesting." □

Old rules don't mean much to U.S. broadcasters

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The most striking thing about the U.S. broadcast TV networks announcing their new fall schedules this past week was how little that actually meant.

Television schedules seem more like sketches these days. Even the networks admit their prime-time plans for September will be different by January, even more so a few months later. That's not even taking into account the inevitable failures among the 56 new series ordered into production by ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and the CW.

Broadcasters are more frequently embracing the cable TV idea of limited run series, of taking favorites off the air for a time instead of showing reruns, and of not treating summer as an afterthought.

"We're not constrained by the traditional broadcast schedule anymore," Kevin Reilly, Fox entertainment chairman, proclaimed in a presentation to advertisers. Television has typically started its new season in late September, a calendar that was set to coincide with the time auto manufacturers rolled out a shiny new line of cars, and wanted something shiny and new on TV to advertise them on. That's the time most new shows appeared, offering a feast for fans and, lately, for digital video recorders.

Not quite half of the new shows — 27 of them — will be on the schedules when a new season starts this September. There are scheduled premiere dates, mostly in mid-winter, for many of the rest. Others have only a vague promise that they will appear, sometime, somewhere. Rebuilding NBC ordered 17 new shows, but only six will be on opening week.

Even established programs are left in limbo. NBC's cult favorite "Community" was renewed, with no hint of when it will be on. Same thing for CBS' comedy "Mike & Molly," even with a 22-episode order. The



This TV publicity image released by ABC shows Sophie Lowe in a scene from "Once Upon a Time in Wonderland," a new spin off series from "Once Upon a Time," premiering as part of the fall 2013 line-up on ABC.
Associated Press

CW will wrap up its "Nikita" series with six episodes, but no one knows when.

Fox's Reilly unveiled a fall schedule, a late fall schedule and a winter schedule, with chips moving all around.

Fox has also resurrected

have to worry about their shows being abruptly canceled.

The limited run concept is also increasingly being applied to regular series. Fans are impatient with series that are interrupted by repeats during the season,

see their (favorite) shows, and we're going to give them to them," said Kelly Kahl, CBS chief scheduling executive.

Even CBS has scheduled its new serial mystery "Hos-tages," to have a season finale in January, to be replaced by a new drama, "Intelligence."

ABC's Lee is a big proponent of debuting series at times other than September so they don't get lost in the crowd (even though the eight series ABC is bringing on this September is more than any network). Viewers expect new series to pop up any time of the year on cable networks, and Reilly said broadcast-ers should do the same.

"I'd like to strike the word 'midseason' from our lexicon, frankly, because it makes it seem like there are only two times of the year when you can launch shows," he said. The networks have learned, through brutal experience, that viewers punish them for summer schedules clogged with reruns. They've gradually shifted the summer balance to fresh shows — primarily reality — but more scripted shows will be there, too. Fox's "24" starts next May, followed immediately by "Wayward Pines." CBS' high-profile Stephen King series, "Under the Dome,"



This TV publicity image released by ABC shows, from left, Liza Lapira, Lauren Ash and Rebel Wilson in a scene from the new series "Super Fun Night," premiering as part of the ABC fall line-up.
Associated Press

the idea of miniseries, which will begin next year with a short-run return of Keifer Sutherland and "24," and continuing with producer M. Night Shyamalan's "Wayward Pines."

The idea is to attract top talent that might not otherwise want to commit to a long season slog. Matt Dillon has already signed on for "Wayward Pines." The approach has worked for cable networks, where "seasons" are generally shorter and creators don't

so executives are looking at ways to run consecutive original episodes, then putting another series in the time slot for a few months when the original show takes a break. ABC programming chief Paul Lee said his network is considering doing that with several shows next season, although it's still not clear which ones. CBS, the traditionalists' network, said there's a risk to this strategy. "Most of the nights of the week, people want to

starts June 24.

For all the talk of breaking traditions, of broadcast networks losing relevance in a digital age, the annual week of schedule presentations offered a firm rebuttal. A media sector that is dying doesn't invest in 56 new programs, each with scripts to be written, production budgets to be kept and actors to be hired.

"Broadcast is not an old medium being left behind for new ones," said CBS Corp. CEO Leslie Moonves. "Far from it."

That's easy for CBS to say; it is finishing one of the most dominant seasons a broadcasters has had for years in relation to its rivals. The heaviest investments have come from the networks chasing CBS: NBC has ordered 17 new series and ABC is bringing on 14. Jimmy Kimmel, whose routine at the ABC presentation is always one of the week's highlights, described the process to advertising executives as "throwing a bunch of (stuff) against the wall and seeing what sticks. You guys are the wall."

Some big names are coming to TV, or returning, with Michael J. Fox leading a new NBC comedy and Robin Williams pairing with Sarah Michelle Gellar on a CBS comedy. Adam Sandler, James Spader and Greg Kinnear will also play new TV characters.

For NBC, the idea of low-rated critical favorites has lost its appeal. Quirk is out. Children play prominent roles in several of its new comedies. In drama, NBC is reaching for brand-name characters like Blackbeard and Dracula, and brand-name creators J.J. Abrams and Dick Wolf. Fox's dramas are darkly violent, including a gruesome update of the Ichabod Crane tale and an Abrams fantasy about cops being paired with androids. The lawyer played by Kinnear in Rake is about as appealing as Hugh Laurie's House. ABC's biggest move is on Tuesday, where half of its eight new shows will be found. □

Resonance Resistant



CHARLES M. BLOW
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Whether one thinks the demiscandals being howled about in Washington should or should not resonate more widely, they don't.

According to a Gallup report released Thursday, "The amount of attention Americans are paying to the I.R.S. and the Benghazi situations is well below the average for news stories Gallup has tracked over the years." (The Associated Press phone records case wasn't mentioned.) Why might this be? I have a few theories:

CREDIBILITY

People know that the Internal Revenue Service is the conservatives' boogeyman. It's the agency that collects the taxes that Republicans hate so much. Some Americans see taxes as, at worst, a necessary nuisance; Republicans see them as an absolute evil. The IRS is the agency that collects the wealth from "us" for the government to redistribute to "them." As National Journal pointed out Friday, "The agency also implements much of the country's social policy through the tax code." We all know that anything with "social" in its name activates the conservative gag reflex.

And on the Associated Press front, it just doesn't ring true to have Republicans standing up as defenders of the "lame-stream media." It's like the person with the club feigning common cause with the baby seal. People just don't buy it.

Furthermore, Republicans have exhibited a near-pathological need to say anything, no matter how outlandish, that would invalidate the Obama presidency. This has left them with little credibility now that there may be legitimate problems. This is the story of the political party that cried "Kenyan."

COMPLEXITY

Where is Benghazi? Seriously, folks, quickly point it out on a map. Thought so. Now, to the controversy: the talking points — what they said, and the machination of how that was altered, and whether al-Qaida should have been immediately blamed, and whether the word "terror" should have had an "-ist" or an "-ism." Seeking to find the killers of four dead Americans is honorable; endless testimony about a fussed-over script used to explain the tragedy is mind-numbing.

UNPOPULARITY

It is clear that the Justice Depart-

ment overreached on the Associated Press scandal and that its strong-arm tactics are likely to have a chilling effect. But Americans are not big fans of mass media. A November Gallup poll found that only a fourth of Americans rate the honesty and ethical standards of journalists highly. Even bankers ranked higher.

As for Tea Party groups that received extra scrutiny from the IRS, an Associated Press-GfK released last month found that fewer than a fourth of Americans say they support the group. The Tea Party may well be passe.

The policy issue is a different story, as The Washington Post pointed out this week: "In 2010, the Supreme Court's landmark 'Citizens United' decision cleared the way for corporations and labor unions to raise and spend unlimited sums of money, and register for tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(4)."

That decision was extremely unpopular. An ABC News/Washington Post poll released nearly a month after the decision was handed down found that 80 percent of Americans opposed it.

So an unpopular movement applied for tax-exempt status under conditions made possible by an unpopular court decision, in order to influence politics with unfathomable amounts of money from unnamed donors? Good luck gaining sympathy for that.

ZEALOTRY

The Congressional Tea Party Caucus founder, Michele Bachmann, who never misses a chance to say something asinine, suggested to the conservative site wnd.com that it was "reasonable" to worry that the IRS might use Obamacare to kill conservatives.

The article reads, in part:

"Since the I.R.S. also is the chief enforcer of Obamacare requirements, she asked whether the I.R.S.'s admission means it 'will deny or delay access to health care' for conservatives. At this point, she said, that 'is a reasonable question to ask.'"

"Reasonable" and "Bachmann" don't even belong in the same conversation, let alone the same sentence, and yet she remains one of the most visible spokeswomen for the movement.

Even former House Speaker Newt Gingrich warned Republicans against overreaching. In an NPR interview that aired Friday, Gingrich, referring to the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, said, "I think we overreached in '98 — how's that for a quote you can use?"

He continued, advising his party to be "calm and factual." Ha! That's too rich, and too late. Republicans are already invoking I-word.

Republicans are their own worst enemies at times like these, unable to leave well-enough alone, and missing chances to honestly engage the public as they race off the cliff in the supercharged outrage machine. □

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Taxing Times For Obama



MAUREEN DOWD
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WASHINGTON — I went to New York last week to cover the TV presentations for the new season, shows like "Scandal," "Shark Tank" and a faltering "American Idol."

I may as well have stayed here. You know that the faltering American idol in the White House must be reeling in this scandalous spring. No Drama Obama is immersed in drama so over the top it could have been scripted by Shonda Rhimes and Karl Rove.

Just four months after his second inauguration, the president is buffeted by gushing investigations, smug and deranged Republicans, and cat-who-ate-the-canary conspiracists. The man who promised in 2008 to make government cool again is instead batting away charges that he has made government "Nixonian" again.

Asked about that on Thursday, President Barack Obama might have tried a little JFK wit to dismiss the ridiculous assertion. Instead, he played the pill, as he too often does, huffily telling reporters, "Well, I'll let you guys engage in those comparisons, and you can go ahead and read the history. I think, and draw your own conclusions."

The onetime messiah seems like a sad sack, trying to bounce back from a blistering array of sins that are not even his fault. He went to Baltimore on Friday to talk about jobs. But no one was listening. Everybody in the country who hates the IRS — so,

then, everybody — was listening to the lugubrious acting IRS commissioner who had been ousted, Steven Miller, tell a House committee that he didn't know who was to blame for the scheme to unfairly scrutinize conservative groups with words like "Tea Party" and "Patriot" in their titles. "Is this still America?" demanded congressman Kevin Brady, a Republican from Texas.

It turns out that Treasury officials knew during the 2012 campaign that an investigation into the targeting was going on. But, enhancing his image as a stranger in a strange land, the president said he learned about it from news reports on May 10. Then he waited three days to descend from the mountain and express outrage.

Democrats are not worried that the rumpuses will hurt Obama's personal appeal or reputation for integrity. But it can't help the president's already limited ability to get anything done in a Congress full of Republicans who live to thwart him, and it may impede his plan to win back the House. Democrats fret that it will hurt them in 2014. As one strategist put it: "Now the kooky, paranoid Tea Party people will believe they had a reason to be paranoid. And there's no better way to express their feelings than to vote next year."

Certainly Obama is getting a clearer understanding that the biggest downside of having the other party control a branch of Congress is its ability to use investigations and subpoenas as anvils. Unfortunately, the sound and fury and battle for clicks will make the already aggrieved president, who considers himself a serious person stuck in an unserious time, even more aggrieved. The Times' Peter Baker reported that Obama feels so stymied that he dreams of "going Bulworth," a reference to the Warren Beatty movie in which a depressed and fading Democratic senator from California starts rapping, speaking with politically incorrect candor and dating Halle Berry.

The president should try candid; wistful and petulant aren't getting him anywhere. The Republicans who are putting partisan gain above solving the country's problems deserve a smackdown. Obama the candidate was romanticized as the pristine relief from Clinton scandals. But his pure personal life did not exempt him from running a government awash in old-school screw-ups.

The Clintons have emerged stronger on the back end of their scandals. For better or worse, Bill is seen as authentic. He is what he is. America's ultimate survivors are now truly potent or dangerous, depending on how you look at it, because Americans love them Bridget Jones-style, just the way they are, warts and all. "Hillary Clinton eats scandals for breakfast," Bill Maher said. "If the Republicans keep this up, she'll not only be president, she'll appoint Bill to the Supreme Court."

Obama would never pull what Hillary pulled with her longtime aide Huma Abedin. Abedin was allowed, after the birth of her and Anthony Weiner's son, to work part time as a top adviser in the State Department for \$135,000 while also working as a consultant for private clients, some of whom had to be interested in her influence in the government — and she did not disclose it on her financial report.

As Politico reported, the arrangement was similar to the way many of Hillary's aides were paid while she was a senator: "They were compensated partly through work on her government staff, and partly through her political action committee." And others would later land lucrative gigs at Clinton-friendly organizations.

Hillary has a blind spot on ethics, not minding if things look terrible if they're technically legit. And she has a tight grip on money, so she didn't choose to simply shift Huma to her personal payroll. But Americans have already priced in the imperfections of the Clintons. □

Luxury tower boom warping New York real estate

CHARLES V. BAGLI

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NEW YORK – Only 10 floors have been completed in what is intended to be the tallest residential building in the Western Hemisphere – a slender, 84-story tower on Park Avenue at 56th Street in Manhattan. But the top penthouse is already under contract for \$95 million. Other buyers have snapped up apartments on lower floors for prices that are almost as breath-

"There's a great deal of interest in New York, which is seen as relatively cheap compared to other global cities," said Yolande Barnes, director of research for Savills, an international real-estate firm.

The growth in high-end projects in Manhattan comes as housing for the working and middle class is in increasingly short supply in the city. These buildings are proving so profitable that they are warping the

ers maintained that they could build moderately priced housing only if they could get significant tax breaks.

"There are only two markets, ultraluxury and subsidized housing," said Rafael Vinoly, the architect who designed the tower on Park Avenue at 56th Street, which is called 432 Park.

The rush to build these towers underscores the gap between rich and poor in New York City, said James

ing for more than \$20 million, signed contracts with buyers for 70 percent of the 140 apartments in just 10 weeks.

"We were all surprised," Senbahar said. "This was not what we expected. There's a pent-up demand for condos with helicopter views."

A decade or two ago, luxury buildings were largely confined to Park and Fifth Avenues.

Today, they are rising all

titles for purchases.

In an interview, the developer of 432 Park, Harry B. Macklowe, said he and his partner, CIM Group, already had contracts for nearly \$1 billion worth of apartments at the building. Total sales are expected to surpass \$3 billion for a building that will cost about \$1.25 billion to complete, he said.

The cheapest apartment in the building, a 351-square-foot studio, costs \$1.59 million, according to the offering prospectus.

About half the buyers so far are foreigners, Macklowe said. As with many of these buildings, only about a quarter of the units will be occupied at any one time. Macklowe bought and demolished the former Drake Hotel during the real estate boom of 2006 to make way for the tower, before nearly losing the property during the downturn.

Macklowe said he and his architect, Vinoly, designed the tower around the "purest geometric form: the square." The tower floors are 93 feet square; each side of the building has six 10-foot-by-10-foot windows. "This is the building of the 21st century, the way the Empire State Building was the building of the 20th century," Macklowe said.

The penthouse has six bedrooms, seven bathrooms and a library. A sculptured bathtub sits in front of a window, offering Imax-like views of the city. A buyer can also pick up a \$3.9 million studio for the housekeeper and a private wine cellar for \$300,000.

The building offers residents an indoor-outdoor event space for 350 of their closest friends.

Macklowe has sought to reach out to potential buyers with a lavish marketing campaign developed by Dbox, an advertising and branding agency. He distributed an oversize glossy magazine around the world that resembles Vogue, with ads from retailers including Armani and Piaget, and essays by writers including Ruth



An undated handout rendering of 432 Park Avenue, an 84-story tower in New York that is intended to be the tallest residential building in the Western Hemisphere. The building is part of a growing trend in ultraluxury construction that has become so profitable it is driving up the overall cost of land in the city.

(Dbox/CIM Group and Macklowe Properties via The New York Times)

taking. While their identities are not known, it is likely that many are the rootless superrich: Russian metals barons, Latin American tycoons, Arab sheiks and Asian billionaires.

Ultraluxury housing and construction is booming across Manhattan, which is now beginning to rival London in popularity with the world's wealthy. The number of condominium buildings in the borough with apartments selling for more than \$15 million has risen to 49, up from 33 in 2009, according to CityRealty.

And an additional 20 or so are under construction or in planning.

local real-estate market, making it more difficult to put up more-affordable housing.

Developers have long complained that the prices of land, construction materials and labor are high in New York, even if they are somewhat less expensive than in London or Hong Kong.

But builders of ultraluxury apartments have much more latitude on costs because they are securing spectacular prices for their projects.

As a result, the luxury building trend is driving up the overall cost of land in the city. Several develop-

Parrott, chief economist for the Fiscal Policy Institute, a liberal research organization supported by unions. He said that median family income in the city had fallen 8 percent since 2008. "Manhattan's superluxury condo boom, along with rocketing foreclosures in Queens and record homelessness, present an unobstructed view of accelerating polarization in this recovery," Parrott said.

Still, it is not hard to see why developers are flocking to the high end.

Izak Senbahar, the developer of 56 Leonard, a 60-story tower in Tribeca where penthouses are go-

over Manhattan – from One57 and the Baccarat in midtown Manhattan to 825 First Ave. on the East Side, 150 Charles St. in Greenwich Village and 30 Park Place downtown.

"It's not that location is unimportant," said Nancy Packes of Signature Marketing Services. "But it's now all about bigness, lifestyle and views."

Determining who is buying many of these properties is a challenge. The superrich often go to great lengths to shield their identities, requiring confidentiality agreements with builders and brokers and using anonymous corporate en-